

# *The Icelandic Canadian*

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## HER MAJESTY



## QUEEN ELIZABETH II

# THE CORONATION

by W. J. LINDAL

Her Majesty, Elizabeth II, the Queen of Canada, has been crowned.

When one looks in retrospect at the event and endeavors to detach himself from personal sentiment which a citizen feels towards the monarch of his country, certain facts stand out crystal clear from which lessons of deep and permanent value can be drawn. These facts may be stated as follows:—

The coronation is the outstanding event of the year; the origin of the ceremony is of great historic and continuing value; the exalted office which Her Majesty occupies as Queen and Head of the Commonwealth places her in a position of unparalleled eminence in the present free world.

## THE GREATEST EVENT OF THE YEAR

The preparations that were made for the coronation; the pageantry of the event itself; the concourse of millions of people in London; the ceremonies in cities, towns and villages throughout the Commonwealth; the flags and bunting in streets, on public and private buildings and in the hands of children—it all leads to one conclusion: this is the most important event of the year and indeed since the end of World War II. It eclipses the investiture of other heads of states and even transcends the inauguration of President Eisenhower, which for obvious reasons attracted unusual attention.

It may be pointed out, however, that there is a difference. Queen Elizabeth

is our Queen. But she is not the Queen of the United States and in that country there was an enormous amount of publicity and excitement. Over there pictures of the Queen appeared on almost every magazine cover and in every newspaper. The coverage of the coronation by television and radio extended from coast to coast.

The event attracted people all over the world. There must be reasons for this and they should be explored.

The monarch who was crowned is a woman. The ceremony and the publicity were mainly in the hands of men and there is still some of the spirit of chivalry in us males and we like to appear gallant and give unusually bright and gay colours to ceremonies and pageantry in which a woman is the central figure.

The Queen is young and she is beautiful. She is gracious, combines charm with dignity, is all that men admire in a woman. She, as all other girls, had her dreams of a prince charming. The story is told that once she asked her father if she really had to marry into royalty. Her mother perhaps as a joke and perhaps seriously, prepared a list of eligibles and Philip was not on the list. Her dreams, however, did come true and she married the man of her choice and they have two lovely children.

Another reason is the home life of the Queen. The British people, and that applies to Canadians as well, want to feel that they can look up to the Royal Family as exemplary in

their home life. This was very true of the late King and the present Queen Mother, and equally so of the grandfather, King George V, and the late Dowager Queen Mary. That noble family tradition is fully carried on in Queen Elizabeth and her Prince Consort.

The British people and people elsewhere of British descent, have a special reason of their own for rejoicing in the coronation of a Queen. There is a feeling in Britain, based upon historic facts, that progress, material and spiritual, is the greatest when the reigning Sovereign is a woman. The three most glorious periods in British history are those of Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Anne and Queen Victoria. This may prove to be the beginning of the fourth glorious period.

### THE HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CORONATION CEREMONY

The reasons so far mentioned centre upon the personality of the monarch who was crowned. They are contributing factors but are not the main reasons which made the event so important. It rests upon two other grounds and they constitute the real basis for the world significance given to the coronation. In the final analysis there is really only one ground because the first has to a great degree made the second possible, and without the first the second may cease to be.

The first of these two interlocking grounds is the historic origin of the coronation and the second is the immediate and continuing position in which the Sovereign, so crowned, is placed as the Queen and Head of a number of nations scattered all over the world. The group of nations here

referred to is the Commonwealth of Nations. Aside from purely personal sentiment and feeling of loyalty it is this relationship that attracts and grips freedom loving people throughout the world.

Before discussing the origin of the coronation and its significance in the relationship of the Queen to her people, it is only right to point out that, at least theoretically, a coronation is not necessary. According to British constitutional principle the throne is never vacant. The moment a monarch dies his heir succeeds him.

This doctrine originated in France and the French herald, on the death of a King, proclaimed "Le Roi est mort, vive le Roi". "The King is dead, long live the King." This time it might have been a little ambiguous to say: "The King is dead, long live the Queen", but the saying, if properly understood, is quite true.

How deeply ingrained this is in the British mind is well illustrated by the remarks the former Queen made the morning she was brought beside the bed of the late King, who a few hours before had passed away in his sleep. She leaned down, kissed his forehead, then with tears in her eyes, straightened up and said: "We must tell Elizabeth." She hastily corrected herself and said: "We must tell — the Queen."

But even if the throne is never vacant a ritual step has to be taken. Prof. E. Schramm says:

"If the successor is to become King in the fullest sense, he must first be inaugurated into the government by legal and ecclesiastical rites".

The origin of these rites is very important. It is only by tracing it that we can fully understand the true meaning of the ceremony.

It has a threefold origin: Teutonic or Anglo-Saxon; Celtic or Scottish; and a religious or Christian origin.

The ancient Teutonic tribes, which include the Anglo-Saxons, were anxious that the successor to a ruler should acquire the qualities and the powers of his predecessor. Those qualities and powers could be transferred by inheritance from father to son, but they could also be transferred by ritual. The new king might be carried on the shields of his tribesmen to the hall of his dead father. His father's helmet would be placed on his head and the son would take an oath of allegiance.

But the ceremony has a Scottish origin as well. In early times the Picts, and probably also the Scots, had a special form of ceremony for crowning a new king. Here again the purpose was to transfer the powers of the deceased king or ruler to the heir. The son was placed on a stone seat on the top of the burial mound of the dead king. It was in this ancient rite that the ceremony of the Stone of Scone originated. A Scottish king in olden times did not become truly a king until he had sat upon the Stone of Scone.

It will be remembered that King Edward I had the Stone taken from Scotland to England and the Coronation Chair was made to enclose it. There was great commotion on Christmas Day, 1951, when some Scottish enthusiasts removed the Stone. It, however, was returned and now is in its accustomed place. Thus the Queen was crowned, according to Scottish ancient custom, on the Stone of Scone.

Lawrence E. Tanner says that the custom of inaugurating a king by placing him on a sacred stone was widespread and went back to very remote

times. Seven Anglo-Saxon Kings were crowned on the "Kings Stone" now carefully preserved in Kingston-on-Thames. Similar ceremonial instances can be found among the ancient Norsemen.

The first part of the coronation ceremony is of Anglo-Saxon origin. It is the recognition, formerly the acceptance, of the monarch by those present. That is a mere formality now, but was not so in Saxon and Norman times. Randolph S. Churchill, son of the present Prime Minister, says:

"In Norman times, and still more during the troubled days of the Wars of the Roses in the fifteenth century, the first step taken by the probable candidate for the throne was to instal himself in the Tower of London. Only then did he feel secure while his friends and adherents organized his election and coronation."

The second part of the coronation ceremony, the anointing of the head, breast and palms of the hand, symbolizes the religious element. The crowning of kings, not only in early England, but in France and Germany as well, was always a religious act, essentially of a sacramental character. This goes back to the Kings of the Old Testament. The purpose was to place the King above his subjects.

Prof. Schramm says:

"The holy oil separated the King from his subjects, made him like the priest, conjoined him with other kings and gave him precedence over those who did not enjoy the right."

A similar effort to give a religious significance to the crowning of a King was made in Scotland. It was said that the Stone of Scone was carried from

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## *An Experiment in Education*

by Holmfridur Danielson

### I

An editorial in **The Living Wilderness** (1952), a periodical published by the Wilderness Society of Washington, D. C., tells about 200 acres of land on the Tongue River, west of Cavalier, N. D., which Mr. G. B. Gunlogson has turned over to the North Dakota Agricultural College and the University of that state as a nature sanctuary to be used for education and research. Mr. Gunlogson is President of Western Advertising Co., of Racine, Wisconsin, which has branch offices in Chicago and New York.

In his carefully prepared plans for this project, which he had submitted to the presidents of the educational institutions concerned, to those interested in soil and nature conservation, and to other eminent educators, Mr. Gunlogson explains that he hopes this tract of land may be as "an experiment in education".

"What we are contemplating here", he says, "is, perhaps, less a research than it is an educational project. To make his life on earth more worth while, the individual needs to be on good terms not only with his human neighbors, his automobile, radio, and good books, but also with the natural environment about him, the earth which nurtures him and the plants and animals which share it with him. If education is to contribute to his better life, it must come as well from deeper understanding and appreciation of the beauties and processes in living nature as from study of the humanities and arts."

The editorial in **Living Wilderness** goes on to say regarding the gift of the 200 acres of land:

"Human motivations are, I think, even more important than a generous act . . . . As we who have undertaken



G. B. Gunlogson

to grapple with the problems of preservation of nature as a cultural resource face the threats now opposing us, and wonder what the next session of Congress will do, such a statement from a generous citizen comes as a benediction. It gives us strength. Our cause is not a hopeless one."

In the sheaf of correspondence between Mr. Gunlogson and Dean R. B. Witmer, of the University of North Dakota, the Dean says:

"It is a beautiful country, and the terrain you describe so well should lend itself ideally to the purpose you suggest . . . ."

And again from Mr. Gunlogson:—

"For the educator it would provide an experiment in educational processes in a field where perception and ethical consciousness need stimulation along with the teaching of biology and other sciences.

"Offers to buy this land have come to me from time to time. But to me there are in it certain intangible values, such as the echo of a whippoorwill, which no buyer could be expected to pay for and which he might not even appreciate, so I had decided a long time ago that it should never be sold. Instead it has been my intention to turn this land over to such purposes as might be of the greatest value to the community and the state."

The 200 acres consist of a varied terrain of woods, old fields, grass lands, river and wilderness remnants. It harbours nearly every species of wild life native to N. Dak., By permitting the land to revert to its original, undisturbed natural status, ecologists say

it will serve science in many ways. Among the objectives outlined by Gunlogson to North Dakota educators are:

School children and other youth groups will find there an unexcelled opportunity to study and become acquainted with most of the plants, birds and wild life to be found in the state.

Many societies, with an interest in natural science, as well as conservationists will have in this sanctuary, an opportunity to study these birds, plants, insects and flowers in their natural habitat; and

In time the area should provide a living record of North Dakota as it was in the beginning.

This generous act of Mr. Gunlogson was not the result of some sudden impulse. Mr. Gunlogson is nationally known as an able and sincere advocate of conservation. He is known as an outstanding Research Engineer in

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Mr. G. B. Gunlogson (Gunnlaugur Bjarni Gunnlaugson) was born at Akra, N. Dak., June 10, 1887. His parents were, Eggert Gunnlaugsson (1835-1914) from Baugaseli in Eyjafjarðarsýsla, Iceland, and his wife Rannveig Rögnvaldsdóttir (1849-1934) from Skíðastöðum in Tungu-veit, Skagafjarðarsýsla. They were pioneers in two Icelandic settlements in this country, coming from New Iceland to North Dakota in 1880 to homestead beside the Tongue River just west of Akra, N. D. His formal education, G. B. Gunlogson obtained at the public school at Akra, and a special student at the N. D. College of Agriculture.

At the age of twenty he became surveyor for the Great Northern Railroad and a year later "field expert" on steam engines and threshers, with J. I. Case Company. He became successively, salesman and advertising manager, engineer and director of research engineering. In 1925 he formed a partnership with Dr. E. A. White of Chicago to engage in consulting engineering and research. He acquired the major interest in Western Advertising Agency in 1930. This business specializes in promoting new practices and new products in agriculture.

He was married in 1918 to Miss Esther Nilsen of Fremont, Nebraska. Their home is at Cross Creek Rd., Village of North Bay, Racine, Wisconsin. They have no children.

Mr. Gunlogson has two brothers, Carl G., who has been engaged in Real Estate business in Minneapolis; and John, farmer at Akra; two sisters, Thorstina Sigridur (Mrs. G. Austfjord, of Akra) now deceased; and Ingibjorg Ruth (Loa) who divides her time between the old home and Cavalier, N. Dak.

The Icelandic community in North Dakota which is celebrating its 75th anniversary in June, this year, has produced many outstanding citizens. Among the neighbors of the Gunnlaugson's were the family of Stígur Thorvaldson, the Erlendson family and the family of Thorstina Jackson Walters. Through these childhood friends of Mr. Gunlogson, who for years have admired his career, The Icelandic Canadian was able to obtain some fifty separate items of information, including magazine articles, newspaper clippings, and letters, which made it possible to present to our readers this feature on "An Experiment in Education". We are especially indebted to Mrs. Pauline Shield, of Los Angeles (daughter of the late Stígur Thorvaldson) for a large mass of information —H. D.

developing technical aid to farmers; as a farmer and business executive, who has been studying every angle of agricultural education for thirty-five years; as one who has visited with and written to hundreds of farmers in many states; and as a man of great intellectual integrity and a firm believer in the fundamental worth of the individual's own effort to make his life here on earth a rich experience, through developing the "heart and mind" rather than a blind belief in machines and gadgets.

It is safe to presume that the voice of G. B. Gunlogson has not been as that of a lone wanderer "crying in the wilderness" for his numerous lectures given throughout the years before conferences of Agriculturists, conservationists, educationists, and various cultural societies, have been printed or mimeographed and widely circulated throughout the United States. He has written articles for a large number of magazines and papers concerned with these matters that lie so close to his heart. His theories on education have found their way into Congressional Committees, and have been widely discussed by men of sincere and earnest endeavour in the field of education

## II

Mr. Gunlogson believes that conservation of natural resources is something in which every individual has a stake, both moral and economic. "We cannot leave it to the government", he stresses.

Indeed, Mr. Gunlogson's whole philosophy is based on his belief in the fundamental values inherent in the human individual. His own activities and his life as a whole have given ample proof that these good qualities

abound in his own personalty. The gift of 200 acres on the Tongue river is not the only project that has materialized in his fertile brain as "an experiment in education". In 1950 he wrote to a number of persons of authority in North Dakota to discuss with them the possibilities of preserving the history and the spirit of the pioneer days, through a series of pageants that could perhaps be "recorded by sound slide film as well as motion pictures to be made available for such distribution as might be found desirable". He also advocated that an illustrated booklet might be worthwhile "at least for local distribution".

In his letter on this proposed project, to Prof. A. G. Arnold, of N.D. agr. College, Fargo, Mr. Gunlogson says:

"Every locality has its own background and history. Sometimes certain events, individuals or groups are commemorated and anniversaries are celebrated. I have been interested in the life and progress of early settlements in several parts of the country. In those days human values were paramount and man looked to himself, not to others or to the State for his salvation. Were these virtues products of the times, or can education help to perpetuate them? . . . Few of these settlers (that had come to the Tongue River and other parts of the country) possessed more than an ox, an axe and a shovel when they came, but the richness that they left to future generations is beyond any evaluation in gold. Yet it is there for all to inherit and enjoy who want to seek the vision. It seems to me that education has failed to the extent that **it has left such human values to lapse.**"

Much of Mr. Gunlogson's work has had to do with research: the introduction and commercial application, and often the development, of new products and practices in agriculture, including power farming and equipment, laboratory culture of legume inoculants and other extensive laboratory work connected with seeds and soil culture.

Distinguished as his contribution has been in technical aid to farmers, he has always emphasized that it is the human element that is the paramount factor in any undertaking. Without the will of the individual to think, to study and to act in applying his knowledge intelligently and honestly, all the technical aids, developed through research, and the flood of literature that descends upon the farmer every year, giving good advice, are of negligible value.

He has taken it upon himself to do some very unusual and extensive research into the value of all these aids that are proffered to farmers. His findings have been given before National Conferences and distributed in published form. Some of the titles of these lectures, brochures and pamphlets prepared by Mr. Gunlogson are really intriguing: "What do farmers think of Educational Bulletins", "Does Education for Farmers Pay?", "Some Concepts of Farming Efficiency", and "A Goal Needed in Agricultural Education."

Mr. Gunlogson wishes the education disseminated to farmers to be "effective", that is he hopes that it will be applied. In one of his pamphlets on the subject he says: "Millions of dollars have been spent to find out how to put the maximum weight on the hog in six months but, so far as I know,

hardly a dime has been spent to find out how to get more farmers to apply the procedure". There is no doubt that the situation in this field has been greatly clarified by Gunlogson's thorough evaluation. To obtain the information necessary in evaluating the use being made of such material as farmers receive for educational purposes, Mr. Gunlogson conducted a farm-to-farm canvass and extensive surveys were made through the mails. His stand on practical training for farmers is nationally known, and he is considered an authority on these matters.

As an engineering research expert, Mr. Gunlogson has written extensively for industrial and trade journals. In August 1943, he made a full appraisal of what the market would be on farms and in other rural homes for water systems, plumbing fixtures and supplies. It was published in a trade journal under the title: **A New Billion Dollar Business**. His articles have appeared regularly also in the **Agricultural Engineer**, many of these being papers given by him at meetings of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, at various centres in the United States. There seems to be no subject pertaining to agricultural needs that he is not well informed on. He writes with equal authority on "General Purpose Tractor Needed for American Farm Market", "Beef Making in Dairyland". and "Are We Facing a New Problem of Soil Building?"

### III

It was some fifty years ago that a handsome youth left the haven of the pioneer home of his parents at Akra, N. Dak. to sojourn into the unknown. "Laugi" (G. B. Gunlogson) had just  
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## *The North-West Rebellion 1885*

by W. Kristjanson

War came to Western Canada in 1885, and more than twenty Icelanders served in it. At the time of the outbreak, the dangers stemmed from both Indians and Metis. The buffalo, chief source of food on the plains, was virtually exterminated. At the same time, the Indians had been placed on reserves outside of which they were forbidden to hunt, and were denied their traditional activities of fighting, horse-stealing, and gambling, no small source of grievance. White settlers were beginning to move in, and some of these newcomers showed lack of tact towards the proud and sensitive Indians, or treated them as dirt, while south of the United States border, the government there was waging a war of attrition against them. The Indian does not make a good farmer, and, in 1884, the Stonies on their reserve were faced with famine. Thus it was that when Canadian Pacific Railway steel reached the Blackfeet reserve, some of the braves, believing that the terms of the treaty by which they had surrendered their sovereignty over the country and accepted reserves for their settlement, to be broken, and were spoiling for a fight. The task of maintaining order among some 25,000 Indians in 375,000 square miles of territory developed on a body of five hundred North-West Mounted Police.

Meanwhile, there was growing unrest among the Metis on the Saskatchewan River. They had made petitions to the Dominion Government, since 1873, regarding their claims to land-scrip, and, more recently, for patents for their squatters lands, but had re-

ceived no satisfaction. When the square-survey lines began to cross their river lots they feared the worst and sent for their idol, Louis Riel, then living in Montana.

Riel arrived at Batoche, in July, 1884, and was greeted as a deliverer. His procedure was at first constitutional, and his demands to Ottawa reasonable. However, he received no immediate reply, and the government did not act until a commission was appointed in March, 1885, in the face of an impending outbreak.

Riel's revolutionary instincts soon came to the fore. A follower of his tried to stir up the Indians at High River, and the braves began to do the war dance. In March, 1885, Riel set up a provisional government, with himself as president. — The West was faced with the horrors of an Indian war and massacre.

"It has often been assumed that nothing could have happened, but this is far from the truth. For weeks the slightest mistake, an act of undue severity on the part of the Police, an indication of weakness, a casual quarrel between an Indian and a settler, a temporary success won by the rebels, any or all of these things and innumerable others unimportant occurrences might have brought the Blackfeet out on the warpath. This, however, did not happen, thanks to the sagacious leading of Crowfoot, the wise counsel of Father Lacombe, and the careful management of the Police." (M. MacInnes, *In the Shadows of the Rockies*, Rivingtons, London, 1930, p. 108.)

Were the claims of the Metis just? Was Riel motivated solely by desire to help the Metis, or partly for personal power? These questions are of historical importance, but they were not the immediate issue for the country in 1885. Faced with the horrors of war, with massacres, the people of Canada, especially Manitoba and the West, could have no thoughts but to quench the conflagration as soon as possible. Perhaps the Icelandic people in Winnipeg, as Leifur, believed that Riel's desire to rule was chiefly to blame for the outbreak.

Riel's next move was to gather a force of Metis and Indians, and to seize a quantity of supplies at Batoche, March 25. The following day Superintendent Crozier, of the North-West Mounted Police, and some forty-five Prince Albert Volunteers, marched to Duck Lake, to secure supplies stored there. He was engaged on the way by a force of Metis and Indians who, from sheltered positions, poured a deadly fire into the small advance party of

Volunteers, and within thirty minutes killed ten and wounded six. At Frog Lake, April 12, eight white people were massacred, and Big Bear's Indians mad with excitement, raged about the settlement firing rifles, looting, and taking prisoners, and threatening to kill the white men and women who had escaped the slaughter.

After Duck Lake, Riel proclaimed himself the prophet of a new religion for the people of the West, and sent runners to the Indian tribes. Most of the chiefs remained loyal, and restrained their more war-like followers, but the success at Duck Lake produced such wide-spread excitement among the Indians that in some cases they became uncontrollable. One false move might have precipitated a general war.

The people of Canada were aroused by the news and volunteers came forward, two thousand in the West and three thousand in the East.

Previous to the war, Winnipeg had one battalion of militia, the 90th Winnipeg Rifles; a small troop of cavalry, and a field battery. When Poundmaker and Big Bear joined the rebellion, Lt. Col. Thos. Scott was commissioned to raise the 95th (later the 92nd.), Battalion Manitoba Grenadiers and Lt. Col. Osborne Smith, the 91st Battalion Winnipeg Light Infantry.

The Canadian force advanced in three columns; General Middleton from Qu'Appelle to Batoche; Col. Otter from Swift Current to Battleford, menaced by Chief Poundmaker, and Major-General Strange from Calgary, against Big Bear, somewhere north of Edmonton. The left wing on the 90th moved forward, March 25, to Troy, a station on the C.P.R., near Qu'Appelle, two days before the arrival of General Middleton from the East.

The following are the names of the Icelanders who served in the North West Rebellion in 1885:

In the 90th Winnipeg Rifles: **Johann Pálsson**, Cpl. **Thorsteinn Petursson**, **Gudmundur Johannsson**, **Stefan Gudmundsson**, (Steve Oliver), **Magnus Jonsson** (M. Johnson), **Jon Dinuson**, **Andres F. Reykdal**, and **Runolfur Runolfsson**.

In the Manitoba Grenadiers: **Jon Julius**, **Jon Blondal**, **Bjorn Blondal**, **Stefan Gudmundsson** (S. Goodmanson).

Wpg. Light Infantry: **Sigurdur Arnason** (**Sigurdur Anderson**).

Prince Albert Volunteers: **Jakob Crawford**.

Transport Service: **Thorarinn Breckman**, **Jon (Jonasson) Landy**.

Toronto 10th Royal Grenadiers: Sgt. **Jon Gudmundsson** (**J. G. Goodman**).

Others may have served, but verification of service is needed, including **Jon Gudmundsson**, and **Jakob Johannsson**, Winnipeg Light Infantry, **Helgi Bjarnason**, Manitoba Grenadiers.

At least eighteen Icelanders served in the field, seven with the 90th; four or more with the Manitoba Grenadiers; two with the Winnipeg Light Infantry; one with the 10th Royal Grenadiers, of Toronto; (Sgt. J. G. Goodman, of Toronto); one with the Prince Alebrt Volunteers (Jacob Crawford, a Manitoba man who as a young lad was employed with the military forming the small-pox quarantine cordon at Nettle Creek, 1876-77), and the three with the transport, which was under fire. Others were enlisted, awaiting the call to proceed on active service.

The story of the Icelandic soldiers who served in the Rebellion may be derived, in part, from the general account of the campaign. Middleton's column marched at the rate of over twenty miles a day, an average maintained to Clark's Crossing (now Saskatoon). On the day of the start, April 6, the thermometer registered 23° below zero. As the column advanced, the weather moderated, but on Salt Plains "the roads were in terrible order and the Infantry, in spite of all my care, had constantly to wade up to their knees, sometimes up to their waists" (S.P. A1886, no. 6). There were difficult river crossings, with inadequate equipment, and troops were virtually untrained citizen-soldiers.

General Middleton moved forward from Clark's Crossing to Batoche, about forty miles away, with his force of some eight hundred men, in two bodies, one on each side of the river. The enemy under the leadership of Gabriel Dumont, engaged the Headquaters column at Fish Creek. The numbers were not unduly disproportionate, Middleton's force engaged be-

ing about 350 strong; the Metis numbering about 150. (George F. G. Stanley: **The Birth of Western Canada**, p. 359) The Canadians had the advantage of artillery, but the enemy had a strong position, chosen by themselves and ingeniously strengthened with rifle-pits, and every man had been used to fire-arms from boyhood, while in the 90th there were several who had not fired a rifle prior to target practice at Qu'Appelle.

Dumont stationed his main body in a small ravine, and when Middleton's men advanced he was able to fire on them from behind the trees and bushes of the ravine. As the battle progressed, however, the Metis became hard pressed, and they attempted to drive back the troops by setting fire to the prairie, but without success. The pressure of numbers, and the heavy fire of the soldiers, particularly from the artillery, discouraged many of Dumont's men, and several deserted.

General Middleton did not press home the attack, and on the whole the result of the engagement was indecisive, and he chose to delay his advance for over a fortnight. His casualties amounted to ten killed and some forty wounded.

The 90th Battalion was first in action at Fish Creek, and took a prominent part in the fighting, and was named by the enemy "The Little Black Devils". The Icelandic members of the unit acquitted themselves well in this action.

On May 7th, Middleton resumed his march on Batoche, with some 850 men. A gatling gun had been added to his armament. Then followed the four day battle of Batoche, May 9th to the 12th.

The Canadians found the rebels in a well chosen and strongly entrenched position on a curve in the river. "I was astonished at the strength of the positions and the ingenuity and care displayed in the construction of the rifle pits." (General F. Middleton: S. P. A1886, V, No. 6a). The enemy's main position extended along the edge of a range of hills running parallel with the river. The slopes of these hills were fairly well wooded and cut by several coulees which afforded excellent protection. Independent of the main line of rifle pits, which extended along the brow of the hill, were many others, placed at various points on the hill, which might possibly become commanding positions. The pits were about three or four feet deep, with breastworks of earth and logs, channelled for rifles. From these pits a constant fire could be maintained with more or less impunity. Below the enemy's main position, the ground sloped down to the river. Upstream, the river bank was bold and steep and well covered with timbers and undergrowth. Nearing Batoche, the ground gradually flattened out, to rise again further down. The approach to the river was defended by a line of rifle pits or trenches, extending down river for nearly a mile.

On the first day of the action, the Canadian troops advanced to the crest of the hill, but further progress was checked by a steady fire from the trenches. This operation was repeated on the two following days, the troops retiring each time after a skirmish. On May 12, the militia, both officers and men, beginning to lose confidence in General Middleton, took matters into their own hands. At the same time, the Metis were becoming short of am-

munition. Advancing with a cheer, the troops carried the rifle pits, and drove the scattered enemy before them. In a few moments Batoche had fallen. The Canadian casualties listed were eight killed and forty-two wounded.

The 90th, including the Icelandic men in the unit, was engaged in the action at Batoche. At least one of the Icelanders was wounded. "Last Friday night ten wounded soldiers arrived in the city from out west, including Magnus Jonsson, who was wounded on the third day of the Battle at Batoche. He is fairly well recovered, but will likely feel the effects for a long time, for the bullet pierced the muscle of the upper arm, close to the bone. Regardless of this, he carried on as if nothing had happened until an hour later, when General Middleton ordered him, unwilling, to be taken back to camp." (Leifur, June 5. 1885). One of the Icelanders, according to an oral account preserved, distinguished himself in an attack on a building.

The transport was under fire at one stage in the Battle of Batoche, and several men and horses were hit. One of the Icelanders in the transport, Thorarinn Breckman, a lad of sixteen was under sharp fire in the course of the campaign, his horses being shot, and in all probability this was at Batoche.

One other Icelander, in addition to Magnus Jonsson, appears to have been wounded in the campaign. Steve Oliver, of the 90th, although not officially listed, had the story to tell of a scalp wound received while on sentry duty.

Riel surrendered after the engagement at Batoche, as did Poundmaker, who at Cut Knife, May 2, had success-

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# The Icelandic Chair

At The University of Manitoba

A Brief Summary of the Year's Activities (1952-1953)

by Finnbogi Guðmundsson

The following information is taken from my last report to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science in the University of Manitoba.

I said in my last report that I would continue to acquaint myself more fully with the Icelandic communities on this continent. In accordance with that I visited and gave lectures (sometimes both in English and Icelandic) in the following places: Baldur, Glenboro, Lundar, Vogar, Arborg, Geysir, Riverton, Gimli, Hecla, Brown, all in Manitoba; Leslie and Wynyard in Saskatchewan; Vancouver, B. C.; Blaine, Seattle and Silver Lake in Washington; Mountain, N. Dakota. I also met several people privately in Saskatoon, Sask.; Markerville and Calgary in Alberta, and Victoria, B. C.

I was everywhere received with kindness and interest was taken in my work and the future of the Icelandic department. I am sure that I could not have spent the time better than in these travels and I hope I have used well this opportunity, for which I am grateful, and that something of value may in the long run come out of it.

I might add that during the year I have been active on the executive committee of the Icelandic National League, whose work is closely associated with my work at the University. Of course, I realize that as my duties in the University increase I may have to limit such extramural activities.

During the session I have given two regular courses, Icelandic IA and Icelandic I, besides a special course (pre-M.A.) in Icelandic history. Two stu-

dents registered for the first (one of them an auditing student only), four for the second, and one for the history course. Six students wrote examinations this spring and passed them.

Two new courses will be introduced next fall, Icelandic II and Icelandic III (Special), but a whole Icelandic curriculum for the next years, approved by the Faculty Council, the Honours Courses Committee and the Senate, have been published in the 1953-54 Calendar. It was thought important at this stage to work out a complete curriculum so that both the Faculty and the students might know what courses were to be offered in the future. (This curriculum is given at the end of this summary).

A Reading Course in Icelandic literature (given in Icelandic) was offered at the University of Manitoba Evening Institute. More than 20 students registered for the course, which was held for 14 evenings (1½ hours each time).

During the second term I found it possible to organize a fortnightly Reading Course in Icelandic literature at Gimli in response to a request from the community there. I have had two groups, altogether around 20 people, and read Icelandic literature in the original with the one, and in English translation with the other.

During the Christmas holidays I went to Boston to the 1952 meeting of

the Modern Language Association. There in the Scandinavian section I met a few colleagues teaching Icelandic in different corners of this continent, from Florida to California and east to Montreal. I was able to consult them on my work here, especially Stefán Einarsson of Johns Hopkins University and Jóhann Hannesson of Cornell, the new curator of the Fiske Icelandic Collection in that University, the best collection of its kind in America. I stayed two days in Ithaca on the way back to Winnipeg, when I also visited with Dr. Milnes of the German Department, University College in Toronto, who has been giving a course in Icelandic since last fall.

In the Icelandic section of our University Library the main effort has been this year to get some of the more important books bound. 300 books have already been bound, and that is, I am afraid, just a small beginning.

Books published in Iceland and sent as gifts to the University from the Icelandic government are now being selected, while previous to that the Icelandic library received a copy of almost everything printed in Iceland, some of it of no value or interest to us. Finnur Sigmundsson, the director of the Icelandic National Library, col-

lects the books in Iceland and has them sent to our library, after he has received the list of selections from me. Mr. Sigmundsson has been most helpful in everything concerning this matter.

Few books have as yet been bought for the Icelandic library, since the main stress has so far been on binding. But in this coming year the money available for library facilities will be divided in some reasonable proportion between the binding and the purchasing of books, mostly works in English on Icelandic or related subjects.

Several donations of books have been made to the library this last year, and the main donors have been:

Mrs. Elin Sigurdson, Gimli, around 200 volumes, most of them in Icelandic and printed in America.

Mrs. Jodis Sigurdson, Winnipeg, a collection of the Icelandic weeklies in Winnipeg, Lögberg and Heimskringla, over many years. Many of the volumes are incomplete, but will be valuable in filling in gaps in the collection already at hand.

Mrs. Caroline Foulke Urie, Cleveland, Ohio, about 30 works, some 50 volumes, 19th century works in old Icelandic and Scandinavian literatures.

Some other people have signified their intention of donating books to the library in the near future.

## CURRICULUM

Icelandic IA — Course 101

Icelandic I — Course 110

Icelandic II — Course 201

Icelandic III — Course 301

Icelandic IIIG\* and IIIH\* — Courses 301 and 302

Icelandic IIIH (Special) — Course 303

Icelandic IV — Course 401

Icelandic IVG and IVH — Courses 401 and 402

Icelandic V — Courses 501 and 502

**101. Introductory Icelandic.** Four hours a week, both terms. For students who enter the University with no Icelandic. Text: Stefán Einarsson: Icelandic

Grammer, Texts, Glossary, Baltimore 1949. — Full Course.

**110. Elementary Icelandic.** Four hours a week, both terms. For students who enter the University with some knowledge of Icelandic, or have passed Icelandic IA. Grammar review, reading and composition. Texts: Stefán Einarsson: Icelandic. Grammar, Texts, Glossary, Baltimore 1949; Heiman eg fór, Reykjavík 1946. — Full Course.

**201. Icelandic II.** Four hours a week, both terms. For students who have passed Icelandic I or have obtained a high standing in Icelandic IA. General history of Iceland. — Icelandic literature 1750–1900. — Composition. — Text: Sigurður Nordal: Íslenzk lestrarbók 1750–1930, 3rd ed., Reykjavík 1947. — Full Course.

**301. Icelandic III.** Three hours a week, both terms. Icelandic literature from the beginning to 1750. — Texts to be announced. Not given in 1953-1954. — Full Course.

**302. Icelandic-Canadian Literature.** Three hours a week, both terms. — Texts to be announced. Not given in 1953-1954. — Full Course.

**303. An Introduction to the Old Icelandic Language and Literature.** — Text: E. V. Gordon: An Introduction to Old Norse, Oxford, 1949. — Full Course.

**401. Twentieth Century Icelandic Literature.** Three hours a week, both terms. Selected readings in major authors. Not given in 1953-1954. — Full Course.

**402. Old Icelandic Literature.** Three hours a week, both terms. A study of selected Icelandic Sagas and Eddic poems. Not given in 1953-1954. — Full Course.

**501. Medieval Icelandic Historical Literature.** Three hours a week, both terms. Selections from Íslendingabók, Landnáma, Heimskringla, Sturlunga and Hungurvaka. Not given in 1953-1954. — Full Course.

**502. (a) Snorra-Edda.** Two hours a week, both terms. A study in mythology, poetical form and skill.

**(b) Gothic.** One hour a week, both terms. Text: Joseph Wright, A Grammar of the Gothic Language. Not given in 1953-1954. — Full Course.

\*)G—General Course; \*)H—Honours Course.

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## The Buoyant Years

Perhaps it was the turning of the road  
 In through the willows and the poplar trees  
 Slanting their shadows on a sunburnt load  
 Of new mown hay, scenting the morning breeze,  
 That pulled my thoughts back to a team of bays.  
 I roam once more beneath a country sky,  
 Through open fields and narrow hoof-turned ways  
 And live the buoyant years that cannot die.  
 With songs of joy I mock the meadow lark.  
 I lift my eyes above the high green hill  
 And see the valleys curve as I embark  
 To settle on the sun's wide window sill.

I seal remembrance with my gayest thought  
 Youth holds the magic wand, yet knows it not.

Freda Bjorn, Seattle, Wash.

## THE COMMON APPROACH

A short time ago the writer indulged in some "thinking aloud", in an article\* under the caption, "A Common Perspective". In the same number of *The Icelandic Canadian* there were two other writings on the same general theme though discussed from different angles. One was the second half of a lecture delivered at Harvard University by Prof. Gylfi P. Gislason of the University of Iceland. The other consisted of the major part of an address by Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson delivered at an annual meeting of The Icelandic National League in Winnipeg. The three combine to form what might be termed an introduction to a study of problems confronting all Icelanders—the home nation as well as the Icelandic ethnic group in America. The questions posed may be summarized as follows: The need of a more directed diffusion of knowledge of Icelandic cultural traits and literary production, made necessary because we of the West are bi-lingual and the home nation and the offshoot here are many thousand miles apart; the need of a central coordinating agency here resulting in a more effective prosecution of our aims and objectives; recognition of the common element in the problems which the home nation and the Icelandic group here have to face.

Judging by the reactions to these writings from the Icelandic public, both here and in Iceland, there can be no doubt that these problems are uppermost in the minds of many of our people at the present time.

The following are excerpts from some of the letters received. The contents of some of them merit publication

in toto but lack of space makes that impossible.

In passing it is only right to add that many people have been quite complimentary in their remarks on these articles, not in a personal way, but in a purely objective sense, indicating quite clearly how general thinking on the subject is and how responsive the Icelandic people are to suggestions which strike a common chord. What at first appeared to be merely the recorded expression of a few individuals seems, even in the preliminary discussions in Iceland and here, to have acquired direction and assumed a distinctive form.

From a common perspective has emerged a common approach.

Letter from Dr. Alexander Jóhannesson, Rector of the University of Iceland:

"Your article is excellent and I would be particularly pleased if Vestur-Íslendingar were able to publish selections from the best that has been thought and written in Icelandic in America. For instance it is but natural that a special collection or anthology of Icelandic poetry should be prepared, the main emphasis being on quality so that what is selected will be of permanent value and will provide an inspiring guide to Icelandic poets in the West. In that collection a worthy place should be allotted to the best poems of Stephan G., but many other poets should be given recognition as well. Such a book of Western-Icelandic poetry should be used at the University and other educational institutions here,

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\* Fall No. Icel. Can. 1952



in studies of Icelandic literature. One can also imagine that choice selections of fiction, particularly short stories, would serve a similar purpose. But it is very important that great care be taken in preparing such a publication and it seems to me that Finnbogi Guðmundsson would be the right man to edit such choice selections. He should, indeed, be able to look east and west and pick out what is of common interest on both sides of the ocean.

"When the airplanes of the future fly between Iceland and America in around four hours it will be easier to establish realistic inter-traffic and then it will be easier to send men across annually who could deliver addresses on Icelandic cultural subjects, and to welcome Vestur-Íslendingar, who would perform similar services here."

Pálmi Hannesson, Rector of Reykjavík College:

"It seems to me that your article is timely, and judging by the situation out there as I see it, I believe your suggestion about select literature, (*úrvalsrit*) is very good. I am convinced that people here would read such books with interest and pleasure, particularly the young people. . . . Whatever has been written in English is very little known here . . . . Doubtless there is little hope, or really no hope that the Icelandic language for any length of time will be preserved as a spoken language. But it is quite possible, as Dr. Thorlakson points out, that men of Icelandic extraction would study the language as a foreign language and learn it to such an extent that they could read Icelandic literature and thus become acquainted with the way of living and of thinking of their forebears. It is my opinion that this would

have its value not only for them, but indirectly for the Canadian nation".

Dr. Stefán Einarsson, Johns Hopkins University:

"I read your article and thought it was very well worth giving serious thought, even though I must admit that on account of distance I have very little to contribute and lack knowledge of the problems of Vestur-Íslendingar.

"One of the tasks is to translate Stephan G. into English, or at least select poems by him. . . . Stephan G. should really be translated with alliteration and the metre preserved and that can be done . . . .

"I know of no one except Páll Bjarnason who composes in English according to Icelandic form. . . . It would be worth while to have his translations published, then you would have a sort of a specimen of Icelandic poesy in English".

Valdimar Bjornson, State Treasurer, Minnesota:

"I don't know that Thornbjorn Thorlakson had either the time or the inclination before his departure now for Florida to discuss with you the long letter I wrote him just yesterday. Whether that be the case or not, I am enclosing a copy of that letter, as I told Thor I would. It raises all manner of parallels to some of the thinking which may have proceeded on your part as well as on his.

"I think your article in the Icelandic Canadian for last fall really 'found something' in the use it made of Gylfi Gislason's lecture, as partially reproduced in the same issue. It may look a bit far-fetched at first glance, this parallel between preserving rem-

nants of Icelandic culture on the part of a few among the millions here, and similar efforts in Iceland itself, subjected now more than ever to outside influences. That there is a good deal of similarity though, I think cannot be questioned."

Dr. Richard Beck, University of N. Dakota:

"Your idea of the publication of our own Selected Writings (Úrvalsrit) should be given full consideration in all its implications. I agree that such a selection, if undertaken, should be on a broad basis, literary, cultural and historical, but throughout with due regard for literary quality, for the mediocre has no place in such a selection. I have long felt that the best of our Icelandic American literature and the history of our people on this continent should be made available to our younger generation in the English language, as well as for the benefit of our English-speaking fellow-citizens. . . .

"Further, I am in full agreement with regard to greater co-ordination of our efforts for the preservation of our Icelandic cultural heritage, ably and excellently outlined in Dr. Thorlakson's address; and as I said in a recent letter to him on the subject, I consider such a central co-ordinating agency as he envisions very timely and of great merit, for only an all-inclusive approach of that kind will, in my judgement, meet the realities of the present situation."

Oli Hallson, Eriksdale, Man.:

"Let us consider the treasure trove we Vestur-Íslendingar, own in the literature created by our own people in Canada, written by the immigrants, while struggling to make a place for themselves and their children in this new land. Faithful to the traditions of

their forefathers they found time to write about their experiences; much of Canadian History and particularly of Manitoba, has been preserved through their efforts and our newspapers and periodicals contain much that deserves to be translated into English, and thus shared by the whole Canadian nation."

J. Ragnar Johnson, Wapah, Man.

"Cooperation between the East and the West is, as you point out, a matter of life and death if things of value in our heritage which we brought with us, are to be preserved.

"Dr. Thorlakson's suggestion that all the Icelandic organizations should evolve tangible ways of bringing about a better measure of cooperation is excellent. . . .

"Up to the present time the churches and the Icelandic papers have undoubtedly done the most in preserving our Icelandic tongue. Now the Synods have naturally had to bow to changed conditions and use English as much if not more than Icelandic, and one can expect that in course of time English will be used exclusively. . . .

"A long time ago I was of the opinion that there should be only one Icelandic paper and was very glad when Dr. Thorlakson expressed the same point of view."

Jon Emil Guðjónsson, who is in charge of the Publishing Department of the "Menningarsjóður" and "Þjóðvinafélagið" in Reykjavík, Iceland, happened to be in Winnipeg a short time ago and discussed this subject with the writer at considerable length. Mr. Guðjónsson is strongly of the opinion that a number of books or pamphlets should be published. There should, he said, be an enlarged edition of "Facts about Iceland" or another

book or booklet published in Iceland to meet the needs of the young people in America with special emphasis on the language and literature. Vestur-Íslendingar should begin publishing their own "Úrvalsrit", and these gems of poetry and prose should not only be for home consumption but for the people of Iceland as well, particularly the younger generation. And in addition, he said, there should be a publication, in English, for the general public in America, of choice literature from Western-Icelandic authors, — whether originally written in Icelandic or English. He also emphasized the need of publishing in English a Beginner's Textbook on Icelandic for people in America who desire to study Icelandic.

. . .

The Icelandic Canadian deems it a duty to lend its support to the various methods of approach, suggested by these eminent men, and indeed to all constructive suggestions, which may lead to a solution of at least some of

the problems arising from a common desire to perpetuate and preserve our national heritage of language and literature. They are problems which, as Valdimar Bjornson points out, are not exclusively confronting us of America, but in the final analysis are problems which world events have thrust upon the Icelandic nation.

It is peculiarly gratifying and fitting that a problem which has been with us Vestur-Íslendingar from the arrival of the very first immigrant and has in the march of those inexorable world events widened to the home nation, should at the last annual conference of the Icelandic National League, have been the focal theme of discussion. Emerging out of that discussion was a resolution, unanimously adopted, which in effect was a call to The Icelandic National League, The Icelandic Canadian Club and The Leif Eiriksson Club to pool their combined strength in the battle for the preservation of the best in our common Icelandic heritage.

W. J. Lindal

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## A Contest In Original Playwriting

To commemorate Coronation year, the Jon Sigurdson Chapter, I.O.D.E., is sponsoring a contest in the writing of an original play. An award of \$50 will be given for the best play.

The rules governing the contest are as follows :

1. The play shall be in English, in three acts, with a time limit of two hours for dialogue.
2. The play must be based on Icelandic pioneer life in America.
3. The contest is open to anyone, except members of the Jon Sigurdson chapter I.O.D.E.
4. The name of the author and post-

al address should be placed in a sealed envelope and attached to the entry.

5. The plays will be judged by a committee of three, appointed by the Jon Sigurdson Chapter.

6. The Jon Sigurdson chapter, I. O. D.E., reserves the right to first performances of the winning entry.

7. Entries should be submitted on or before December 1, 1953 to the chairman of the Play Award Committee,

Mrs. E. A. Isfeld,  
575 Montrose St.  
Winnipeg, Man.  
Phone 40-7456

## THE HEALING HAND

by **Caroline Gunnarsson**



**Oddny Bjarnason**

Oddny Bjarnason smiled a warm welcome to the three who drove into the yard that mellow autumn evening shortly after the end of World War I. For Oddny and Eiríkur shared a joyful hospitality that was part of the pioneer way of life in the Thingvalla settlement, near Churchbridge, Sask., hospitality that couldn't wait for a knock on the door, but liked to meet the visitor half-way down the walk.

She didn't recognize the elderly couple until they mentioned their family name. They were from the German settlement to the north, where Mrs. Bjarnason's name was as well-known and loved as in her own Icelandic community and miles beyond.

Could she place the young man who was with them, the couple wondered. Well, the boy had changed a lot, they conceded, but she had seen him before, for hers were the healing hands that softened the ordeal of his arrival

into the world for him and his mother. They handed her a bill, for they had come to pay a debt that was twenty years old, and to express gratitude cherished through the years.

The lad was only one of the uncounted children whom Mrs. Bjarnason had seen off to a safe start in life since she and her husband settled on their homestead, in November, 1888—just two years after the first Icelandic families established themselves north of the site that was later to become the village of Churchbridge, and gave the new settlement the proud name of Thingvalla.

Oddny Magnúsdóttir started early to prepare herself for a lifetime of usefulness. She was born at Vilborgarstaðir, Vestmannaeyjar, Iceland, on August 21, 1855, the daughter of Magnús Pálsson and Oddny Þórðardóttir. Her father died when she was thirteen years old, but she remained at home with her mother and brother until she was nineteen. Then she obtained employment with a Danish family and learned to speak, read and write the Danish language.

She yearned for further education, and by the time she was twenty she was on her way to Copenhagen where there would be opportunities. But she was alone and penniless, and the year was 1875, an age of few opportunities for young women—except in domestic service. Fortune smiled on her courage, however, and she found employment with a fine family. In later years she recalled that in their home she gained much valuable knowledge and experience.



In Copenhagen she met Eiríkur Bjarnarson, a handsome, tough-fibred young Icelandic sailor. Of a jovial, impulsive temperament, he had courage and generosity to match hers. The fates must have been pleased with themselves when they matched that couple for a chosen task and marched them to the alter of a famous church in the Danish capital, on April 22nd, 1877.

Employed on merchant vessels, Eiríkur spent long periods at sea. The couple's first child died in infancy and the grieving young mother was alone with time on her hands. Those were the years when the home of the great Icelandic patriot, Jón Sigurðsson, and his wife Ingibjörg Einarsdóttir, was ever open to lonesome young Icelanders in Copenhagen. The famous statesman urged Oddny to train as a nurse. She would never regret it, he assured her, and in future years many people would have cause to bless her for her chosen mission.

Oddny graduated from the Royal Hospital in Copenhagen in 1881, and that year the couple returned to Iceland, settling at Seyðisfjörður. Oddny was appointed district nurse and midwife, and filled that position with distinction until they left for Canada on October 15, 1888, with four young children and Oddny's aging mother.

In Winnipeg, Mrs. Bjarnason spoke to a doctor and learned from him that they were going to a community where conditions were still primitive and no medical help available at within a radius of many miles. There were practising physicians at Russel, Man., 25 miles to the east, and at Yorkton, Sask., forty-two miles to the west. Winters on the prairie were severe, and stormy, she was warned, and she

might be asked to drive twenty or thirty miles in an open sleigh, drawn by slow, plodding oxen. On long winter drives he advised her to wear undyed silk stockings under her heavy homemade woollens, to keep her feet warm and prevent frostbite.

Undaunted the Bjarnasons proceeded to their destination, and always the young woman found herself equal to the hardships which she soon learned had not been overestimated. At any time of the night or day folks would come to the homestead seeking her help. Cheerfully she would leave an unfinished task, pick up her medicine kit and go. Always she went with an ungrudging "godspeed" from her husband, who added the burden of caring for the household and children to the trying tasks of pioneer farming.

No thought was given to fees. If there was money, people happily paid her what they could. It was seldom much, often nothing. All through the early years she played the part of doctor and nurse in many an emergency. She was first to look upon most native-born sons and daughters of the Icelandic settlements, Thingvalla and Lögberg, and it has been said that she also ushered into the world just as many infants of other national origins.

But the Bjarnasons prospered and were surrounded with affection and respect. Shortly after the turn of the century a large number of friends descended upon their home in a surprise visit. Mrs. Bjarnason was presented with a gold watch and chain and a gold signet ring. "To Mrs. Oddny Bjarnason. A token of gratitude and respect from thirty-six mothers", is inscribed on the watch.

It is now the cherished possession

of her grand-daughter, Oddny Eiríka, daughter of her son, Magnus, and his wife, the former Jonina Gunnarsson. Eiríka, who is the only descendant so far, to choose her grandmother's profession, was given the watch by her parents when she graduated from the Winnipeg General Hospital School of Nursing in 1952.

Oddny and Eiríkur lived to mourn three beloved members of their family. Their son, Bjarni, was struck by lightning at the age of seventeen; an adopted daughter, Ingibjorg, died during the 'flu epidemic in 1919, and their daughter, Gudrun (Mrs. Robert Moore) died in Winnipeg in 1926. One son, Sigurdur, passed away after the death of his parents.

Two of their daughters, Mrs. Sigfus Joel, and Mrs. Herman Sigurdson, reside in Vancouver and their son, Magnus is postmaster at Churchbridge, Sask.

Small in stature, Oddny had a tranquil dignity of bearing, and under an outward calm beat a heart tender to the pain and grief of others. A woman whom she had often nursed, once said of her that her very presence seemed to bring peace and comfort into a sick room.

Oddny and Eiríkur Bjarnason spent their last years on the old homestead with their son, Magnus and his wife. Their lively interest in church and community affairs endured until the end. They remained gay and warm in conversation and were stiff competition to any bridge players who would take them on.

Oddny died on April 25th, 1932, a little more than three years after the death of her husband.

That spring day she rose as usual. Then, complaining of weariness, she lay down to rest on her bed. Her strength ebbed gently like a candle that is spent, and her children were all around her when she fell asleep that afternoon.

She is well remembered too, by the other children of Thingvalla and surrounding district, —the little ones who would not have fared so well had she not been on hand to receive them into the world. They were the generation who installed the handsome baptismal font in Thingvalla's Concordia Church as a tribute to her memory. It is a fitting token of their gratitude and respect to Mrs. Oddny Bjarnason, pioneer nurse.

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#### AWARD AT ST. MARY'S

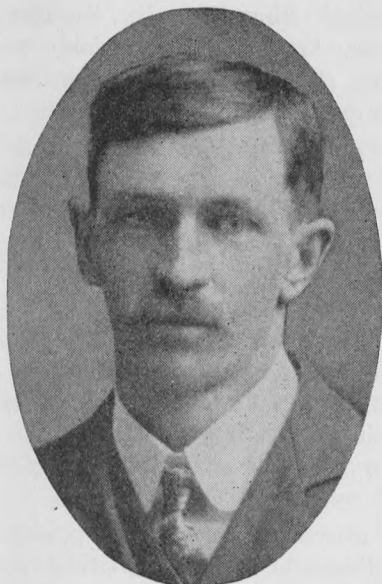
At the graduation exercises held at St. Mary's Academy, Winnipeg, May 15, Miss Diane Philbin 16, was presented with three awards for highest marks in Physics, Chemistry, and Social Studies at the Academy. Diane, who is in residence at the Academy is the daughter of George Philbin of Churchill, Man., and the late Mrs. Svana Philbin, who passed away last year. Diane and Joan Bergman are

first cousins. Mrs. Philbin was a sister of Mrs. Oddný Bergman. Their parents were the late Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Sigurdson of Arborg and Churchill.

To celebrate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, the Churchill Junior High School held a Coronation program, the main feature being a pageant to portray the Coronation. Diane's younger sister, Terry, aged 13, was chosen to represent the Queen, in the pageant.

# GUNNSTEINN EYJÓLFSSON

by Professor Richard Beck



Gunnsteinn Eyjólfsson

Gunnsteinn Eyjólfsson occupies a place all his own in Icelandic literature in America, for he was one of the very first among his countrymen in the New World to try his hand seriously at writing fiction. As a matter of fact, at the time of the appearance of his first stories, some 60 years ago, fiction writing in the modern sense was still in its early stages in Iceland itself. Eyjólfsson's stories, therefore, are of historical interest as pioneer efforts in the field, but they are also noteworthy for their literary qualities, although, for a full appreciation, they must be read in the light of the circumstances under which they were written and evaluated in terms of the literary tendencies prevailing at the time. For every author is, of course, in varying degree, a child of his age.

In view of Eyjólfsson's place in Ice-

landic letters in the Western World and the intrinsic literary merit of his writings, it is gratifying that his collected stories have now appeared in book form, *Jón á Strympu og fleiri sögur*. (The Columbia Press, Winnipeg, fall of 1952), published by his daughter, Miss Vilborg Eyjólfsson of Winnipeg, and edited, with a concise and within its limits an excellent introduction, by Gísli Jónsson, also of Winnipeg, and a well-known poet. Miss Eyjólfsson could not have erected a more worthy or lasting monument to her father, and Gísli Jónsson was the ideal choice as editor of this volume, for he knew the author intimately personally and has previously (in *Eimreiðin* 1913) written about him and his work at some length, with sympathetic insight and discrimination.

The appearance of Eyjólfsson's collected stories is the proper occasion for reviewing briefly his life and literary career and for re-evaluating his writings for present-day readers.

## I.

Gunnsteinn Eyjólfsson was born at Unaós in the district of Fljótsdals-hérað in eastern Iceland, April 1. 1866. He came of a sturdy and gifted farm family, and with his parents, Eyjólfur Magnússon and his second wife Vilborg Jónsdóttir, he migrated to Canada at the age of ten. The family settled in northern New Iceland (Nýja Ísland) in Manitoba, and here, under primitive and rugged pioneer conditions, the future poet grew to manhood. While life in the new settle-

ment was from the very first characterized by strong cultural interest, memorably manifested in the foundation there of the first Icelandic paper in America, *Framfari* (1877), public schools were not established until later. Aside from such instruction as he received in his home, Eyjólfsson was, therefore, a self-educated man, who through his own efforts, besides his mastery of Icelandic and English, had acquired reading knowledge of all the Scandinavian languages, and was widely read, especially in English and Icelandic literature.

His wide reading, writing and other cultural activities, are all the more remarkable when viewed against the background of the conditions under which he lived and labored. He took over the parental farm at an early age and married a splendid woman, Guðfinna Eiríksdóttir Sigurðssonar, also from the Fljótshálsa district in eastern Iceland. To them 9 children were born, all of whom are still living, gifted and worthy children of excellent parents. Eyjólfsson was not only a hard-working and successful pioneer farmer, who had to provide for a large family, but equally successful as postmaster and merchant, and also found time for active participation and leadership in community life. In fact, his home was a cultural center in the district.

Unfortunately, his many-sided activities and promising literary and musical career were cut short by his untimely death in Rochester, Minnesota, on March 3, 1910, when he had not yet reached the 44 year mark.

## II

Eyjólfsson's stories, included in the new collected edition, originally ap-

peared, in most cases, in Icelandic papers and periodicals on both sides of the Atlantic between 1894 and 1905, several of them in the leading literary periodical *Eimreiðin* in Reykjavik, Iceland. Separately published were *Elenóra* (Reykjavik, 1894) and *Tíund* (Winnipeg, 1905).

His oldest published story, the short novel *Elenóra*, describes the tragic fate of a country girl from New Iceland in Winnipeg, whose death is the direct result of the dastardly betrayal of the man pretending to love her. It is a moving but bitter story, scathing in its indictment of the self-styled pillars of Winnipeg society, not least the church people, but the literary art is undeniably somewhat marred by the social satire.

In this story the author appears as a full-blooded Realist, writing thoroughly in the spirit of Gestur Pálsson and other Icelandic and Scandinavian adherents of the Realistic Movement. Very much in the same spirit of bitter social satire are Eyjólfsson's stories — "Amerísk gestrisni" (American Hospitality), holding up to view in cold contempt the hypocrisy an inhumanity of an American clergyman, and to a considerable extent "Þingkosningin" (The Election) and "Í helvíti" (In Hell), the former a relentless attack upon unscrupulous political practices among the author's fellow-Icelanders in Canada. The two last-named stories are the beginning and conclusion of a long novel, unfortunately never completed.

Here the reader gets glimpses of Eyjólfsson's more quiet and at the same time more effective social satire, which characterizes his stories centering around Jón á Strympu and life in New Iceland, "Hvernig eg yfirbugaði



svetarráðið" (How I Conquered the Municipal Council), "Járnbrautar-nefndin" (The Railroad Committee) and "Tíund" (Tithe). Hitting the mark admirably, and thoroughly entertaining, these stories present a memorable picture of the hero, a boastful and good-for-nothing fellow. No doubt, the author was here holding up the mirror to his compatriots, although Jón is a composite picture and a personification of those Icelandic character traits which the author found least to his liking, rather than a direct picture of any one individual.

In the story "Góðar taugar" (Good Points) Eyjólfsson strikes a different note, describing a misfit and a stepchild of fortune, who sacrifices his life to save his enemy from impending death. Here the author's sympathy for the underdog is seen to a good advantage. And that deep sympathy, together with a genuine desire for social betterment, are, of course, at the heart of his social satire.

His fable "Dauðin" (The Death) is, as the title suggests, serious in subject-matter and mood, while in his other fables his satirical spirit is much in evidence; nor do these sketches miss the mark, especially not "Öfundsýkin" (The Envy), effective in its symbolism.

Eyjólfsson's stories are written in a fluent, natural style; his Icelandic is admirable, when it is recalled that he left Iceland at the age of ten; but here the fruits of his extensive reading in Icelandic literature are clearly seen. There are in his stories numerous graphic descriptive passages revealing both his narrative talent and his rich imagination.

### III

Gunnsteinn Eyjólfsson not only possessed rich literary talent, but equally rich musical talent as well; and his interest in the latter field may even have been closer to his heart, according to Gísli Jónsson, himself a gifted singer and student of music, who has written specially on this phase of Eyjólfsson's work, both in his article about him in *Eimreiðin*, and also in his survey of Icelandic-American musical composers, "Nokkur vestur-íslensk tónskáld" (*Tímarit Þjóðræknisfélagsins* 1951).

Again, Eyjólfsson's achievements in the realm of musical composition are all the more surprising, when it is born in mind that here, too, he acquired his knowledge in the field through his own efforts and in the face of great difficulties. He succeeded, however, both in writing a number of original compositions and in arranging others; all of which, in the opinion of competent judges, rank high among such productions of Icelanders in America.

Fifteen of his original compositions have been preserved or published, the earliest one from about 1890. This was the popular "Mig hryggir svo margt", written for the charming poem by that title by the distinguished Icelandic poet Þorsteinn Erlingsson; later published, in two arrangements by the composer, in Montreal in 1910, with an excellent English translation of the text by Eiríkur Magnússon, M.A., Cambridge, England. Several of Eyjólfsson's other musical compositions have also gained popularity among his countrymen in America and Iceland.

Gísli Jónsson characterizes his musical compositions as generally soft and

cheerful, but with a dreamy and melancholy undercurrent. He further stresses, and no doubt correctly, that they reveal the milder and gentler serious side of the poet, less in evidence in his writings. In short, his musical compositions faithfully mirror the author's innermost soul and emotional life.

Gunnsteinn Eyjólfsson is, therefore, to be remembered both as an Iceland-

ic-American author of note and as a gifted pioneer composer among the Icelanders on this continent.

It is indeed to be lamented that he was not granted longer life, for much could have been expected from him in both literature and music, as at the time of his death he had both attained maturity and achieved more favorable economic conditions.

## Jaycee Tourist Queen



**Joan Bergman**

**Joan Bergman**, Winnipeg model and figure skating instructor, was crowned Miss Jaycee Tourist Queen of 1953, over eleven other contestants at the Red River Exhibition in Winnipeg, June 8. The Jaycees will give Joan a trip to this year's acquatennial in Minneapolis in Mid-July, as one of the "guest Queens" from "all over the world".

Readers of the Icelandic Canadian are familiar with Joan's exploits as an outstanding figure skater. Last year

she finished her figure skating gold medal test and is Junior Professional at the Winnipeg Winter Club, during the Winter months. In April Joan was featured guest artist at the Flin Flon Figure Skating Carnival. She has appeared in similar capacity at many skating carnivals in various parts of Manitoba.

Joan is now a professional model for merchandising firms, handling ladies' clothing. She modelled in the T. Eaton Co. Spring Show and is at present modelling for Julliard, Ladies Suits, which is a wholesale firm.

Joan has not done any photographic modelling, as yet, but this too, may be included in her future career. There were 54 original contestants in the Jaycee-sponsored competition, of whom 11 were picked for the semi-finals.

Joan is a member of the Icelandic Canadian Club, as also are her parents whom she lives with at 31-A, Redwood Apts, Winnipeg.

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ICELANDIC CANADIAN MAGAZINE**

## *Canadian Authority on Rust*



**Dr. Bjorn Peturson**

**Dr. Bjorn Peturson**, plant pathologist of the Dominion Laboratory of Plant Pathology, Department of Agriculture, U. of M. Campus, is a product of the pioneer Icelandic community of Gimli, Manitoba, and one of its most illustrious sons.

Bjorn was born in Winnipeg, the son of Pjetur Gudmundsson from Mývatn, Iceland, and his wife Ingibjorg Bjornsdottir from Vopnafjörður, Icel., both of whom are now deceased. Bjorn was the oldest of four children with which this family was blessed. A brother, Baldur, resides at Gimli, a sister, Mrs. Margaret Munson, in Winnipeg. Another brother Thorarinn, died at Gimli ten years ago.

Barney, or Bjössi, as he is known to his friends spent his early youth on the family homestead, "Grimstangi", located four miles north of Gimli on the west shore of Lake Winnipeg. This farm is still in the possession of the family, and Bjorn often spends a part of his holiday there.

Bjorn received his elementary education at the original log cabin King Edward School near Camp Morton. Later the family moved to Gimli to take advantage of better educational facilities. It was here that Bjorn was launched on his early career of brilliant scholarship. His keen intellect, steadfastness of purpose, industry, and application ensured his success as a scholar.

After completing high school his education was interrupted, first for a short period as a fisherman on Lake Winnipeg, later during World War I he served in the Royal Navy.

In 1918 he was married to Anna Lilja Olson (daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Olson, Gimli) who died during the Spanish Influenza epidemic of 1918.

Shortly following his demobilization from the Navy, Bjorn entered the field of education again. He first trained as a teacher at the Manitoba Provincial Normal School in Winnipeg, and taught for some time at Makaroff and other Manitoba points.

His desire for further education and greater service prompted him to enter the Manitoba Agricultural College, where during his undergraduate years he won the Isbister Scholarships (in third and fourth years) awarded for the highest scholastic standing in each year, before graduating as a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (B.S.A.) in 1928. The University Yearbook — "Brown and Gold" says this of him: "Bjorn joined the 1928 class in its second year. Since then he has spent his winters accumulating scholarships, entering whole-heartedly into athletics,

and acting in various capacities on the executive. During the summers he has been chasing the elusive rust spores throughout Western Canada. He hopes eventually to catch them all". The following year he spent in graduate studies at the University of Minnesota, from which he received his M. Sc. degree in 1929.

During, and subsequently to, his University years Bjorn was actively engaged in scientific research at the Dominion Rust Research Laboratory located on the campus of the University of Manitoba, Fort Garry. His outstanding contribution to the farming communities of Western Canada in connection with combatting rusts, and development of new grain strains, and related research, is winning him increased recognition and honors. He is recognized as the leading Canadian authority on crown rust of oats, as well as flax rusts.

During the last number of years Bjorn has continued research studies in Plant Pathology at the University of Minnesota, from which he received his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in 1952.

All through these years Bjorn has rendered unstinted and valuable service to a large number of scientific and cultural societies and organizations, particularly the Scientific Club of Winnipeg, the Agricultural Institute of Canada, the Canadian and American Phytopathological Society, the Sigma XI Society (U.S.A.), as well as many local horticultural and agricultural societies. He is widely sought after as a lecturer to horticultural societies, and lectures as well to University students enrolled in the various horticultural short courses. He is also the

author of a large number of scientific papers in his field of research.

In spite of a full and busy professional career, Bjorn has found time to pursue many hobbies. The one that perhaps gives him the greatest pleasure and satisfaction is his work with the children of Fort Garry, where he supervises their gardening projects. His work has not only borne good fruit literally, but in addition to that his assistance to the young people has helped to bring the Waugh Shield, awarded annually for the best garden in Greater Winnipeg area, twice to Fort Garry. Bjorn's purely personal hobbies include gardening, and he is somewhat of an authority on the growing of gladioli and dahlias. He has also done some very fine amateur photography, and has a very fine collection of slides that he has produced.

In his younger years Bjorn was a good all-round athlete, and was well skilled in the Icelandic "glíma". He also won for three successive years the trophy awarded for the highest aggregate points at the Gimli Icelandic Celebration at Gimli. At one time he was also the Y.M.C.A. lightweight wrestling champion, and at the same time the runner-up for the Manitoba championship. He now contents himself with curling, and as a skip has eliminated many a hopeful bonspiel contender. In spite of lack of practice he still plays a good game of chess.

Bjorn has all the characteristics of a fine Canadian citizen. He possesses a rich natural heritage from his family, which he has very successfully developed; for he is both a scholar and a gentleman of high integrity, loyal, warm-hearted, and generous in all things. Although Bjorn is, to most people, somewhat retiring, yet among



his close friends and associates he is regarded as a keen wit with an unparalleled sense of good clean humor.

Bjorn is married to the former Gudny Markusson, whose family resided at Arnes, Manitoba. Her parents were Gudmundur Markusson Jonsson from Vopnafjörður, Iceland, and his wife Ingibjorg Sigridur Finnsdottir.

Gudny has taken a very active part in social work in her community, does very fine handicraft work, and raises flowers as a hobby. She has also been very keenly interested in Bjorn's varied scientific activities, and has played no small part in his success.

J. K. L.

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## *Reykjavik Choir Tours Mediterranean*

Ever since the Norwegians and Irishmen began to mix blood in Iceland a thousand years ago, the Icelandic people have shown artistic talents high above the average in western Europe. The knife and the needle, the carving by the men and the sewing, weaving and fancy work by the women, made every home a place of visible culture; and the old Sagas are perhaps in high degree the product of the Icelandic interest for poetry, keeping the people as a nation of poets for a thousand years.

In recent years the woodcarvers have been replaced by excellent painters and sculptors, but the poetry is still the first art in the country. Usually, poetry is followed by music, but although the people as a whole have always been very musical, the poverty during the dark ages precluded almost every possibility of indulging in instrumental music. This, however, did not prevent the development of the best instrument of all—the human voice, for it was free and frequently used. At the courts of the ancient kings of northern and western Europe Icelandic poets and singers were always welcome, and during the past decade several Icelanders have been singing at European and even American operas.

The interest in singing has created several choirs through the times, and at present it is a well-known fact all over Europe and in many American cities that Icelandic men's choirs are among the best choral groups in the world, perhaps of the same quality as the famous Cossack choirs. They have frequently travelled abroad in order to see other countries and show them what they are able to do, always with the same glorious result, and every trip has been very stimulating for Icelandic music and for the choirs themselves.

One of the most famous Icelandic choirs is the Reykjavik Male Voice Choir, made up of more than forty members, who work in different places during the day and come together in the evenings to sing. This choir, which is conducted by Sigurður Þórðarson, has recently added new laurels to the many old ones, and these laurels are perhaps bigger and more significant than all the previous plaudits put together, as they were gathered from the singing peoples of the Mediterranean, where good music belongs to the daily needs. Together with about 150 Icelandic tourists the choir travelled with the first-class Icelandic ship "Gullfoss" for a month this spring to southern Europe and northern Africa, where they gave concerts in all the major

cities from Lisbon and Algiers in the west to Milan and Rome in the east. In the latter city they even sang for the Pope, and in all the countries visited performances were also given for the broadcasts.

The Icelandic newspapers have published a large number of critiques from the cities visited in the south, and all these reviews have agreed in maintaining that not only are the voices first-class but also the artistic treatment of the music, be it Icelandic or foreign, and the same words of appreciation were given to melodies by Icelanders unknown in the south—Sigfús Einarsson, Markús Kristjánsson, and others, as to the well-known classics by Bizet, Bortniansky, Gounod, Handel, Mozart, Offenbach, and Strauss.

The Reykjavík Male Voice Choir, under contract to the National Concerts and Artists Corporation, toured the eastern United States in 1946 and sang in some sixty of the larger cities, and at the Civic Auditorium in Winnipeg, receiving everywhere glowing tributes from the critics. (See *Icel. Can.* Winter 1946).

The people here, of Icelandic descent, rejoice with this fine choir in the artistic successes already gleaned, and hope that the future will hold in store many more successful tours of Icelandic singers to other countries. Music is also innate in the Icelandic temperament on this side of the Atlantic, although most of our good artists here have used other instruments, rather than the voice, for expressing this talent. **A. L.**

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## Four Bjarnason's Graduates

**Arlan E. Bjarnason**, graduated as B.A., at U of B. C. in 1949, and has now obtained his M.D., at McGill University, May 27, 1953.

**Leon E. Bjarnason** graduated as B. of Ed. from the University of Washington in 1952, majoring in Music.

**Emil G. Bjarnason** graduated as B. A. at U. of B. C. in 1940 and majored in Economics at Queen's University, Toronto, in 1941.

**P. H. E. (Erling) Bjarnason**, a graduate in Pharmacy, was last year appointed Merchandise Manager of Cunningham Drug Stores Ltd. Vancouver. Mr. Bjarnason is in charge of Sales, Advertising and Personell. He previously held the post of Store Supervisor and Assistant Sales Manager.

Arlan, Emil, Leon and Erling are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bjarna-

son of Vancouver, formerly of Wynyard, Sask. Mr. Bjarnason is a well-known poet and writer. His poems and translations have appeared in the *Icelandic Canadian*.

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## Graduates of Icelandic Extraction at the U. of Sask., May 8th, 1953

**Bachelor of Arts**

Mildred Gudmundson, Mozart, Sask.

**Bachelor of Commerce**

Geraldine Janet Steinson, Saskatoon.

**Bachelor of Science in Agriculture**

Kenneth Leo Melsted, Wynyard. (see *Icelandic Can.* Spring 1953, p. 42.)

**Master of Science in Agriculture**

Conrad Gislason, B.S.A. Leslie, (Nov. 1952).

## Appointed to Health Unit Staff

**Olafur Bjorn Petursson**, recently of the York County Health Unit (Ont.), has been appointed to the staff of the Welland and District Health Unit (Ont.) as sanitarian and epidemiologist. He took up his new position at the end of May and will move from Newmarket (a Toronto suburb) to Welland with his wife, the former Henriette M. Creighton and their three children.

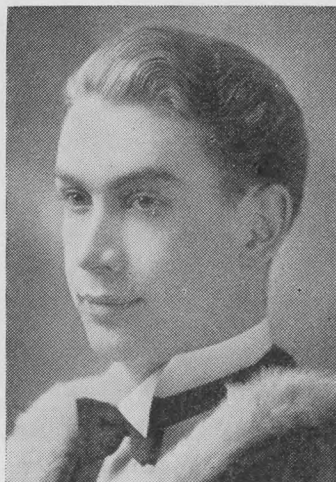
Mr. Petursson comes to the Welland and District Health Unit well qualified to take charge of food control, environmental hygiene and sanitation. He recently took a year's training in public health at the University of Toronto under the Provincial Health Grant, and has obtained his certificates in public health and sanitary inspection.

O. B. Petursson was born in Winnipeg and received his degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Manitoba in 1937. Upon graduation he was engaged by Picardy Ltd. in the manufacture of ice cream. He then worked with the Winnipeg city health department.

In 1944 he took up a post with the Bermuda government as dairy inspection officer, which position he held for three years. From there Mr. Petursson returned to Winnipeg and was in business for himself. In 1950 he joined the staff on the York County Health Unit.

Mr. Petursson was president of the Icelandic Canadian Club in 1940-41. His oldest brother Rev. P. M. Petursson, (whose son Philip Olafur, graduated in Mechanical Engineering last year from the U. of M.), is minister of the First Federated Church, Winnipeg. (See. Icel. Can. Spring 1948) The

youngest brother, Sigurdur Gunnar, graduated in Electrical Engineering in 1951 (U. of M.) That year he was sent to England by the English Electrical Co., in whose employ he was, to do post-graduate work in Electrical Eng-



**Olafur Bjorn Petursson**

ineering. After his return he entered the employ of John Inglis Electrical Co. in Toronto, a subsidiary of English Electric.

Rev. Philip, Olafur B., and Sigurdur are the sons of Mrs. Anna (McNab) Petursson and the late Olafur Petursson, who passed away in 1952. Olafur who was a brother of the late Dr. Rögnvaldur Petursson, was an able and a loyal supporter of the Federated Church, active in various cultural projects in the Icelandic community, and a member of the Executive of the Icel. National League for many years. He was a staunch supporter of the Viking Press, publishers of **Heimskringla** and served for twelve years, until his death as Manager of that firm.

In honor of his memory the Petursson family has equipped and furnished a Board Room at the First Federated Church, which was dedicated February 2, 1953. On the door leading to the Board Room is a bronze

plaque suitably inscribed and paying tribute to "Olafur Petursson, Loyal and active supporter of the Unitarian movement in Winnipeg from 1912 to 1952 . . ."

## Credit Society Secretary



**Barney (Bjorn) Johnson**

**Barney (Bjorn) Johnson**, who last August assumed the position of secretary of the Saskatchewan Credit Society, Limited, has an excellent co-operative background. He spent his early years in the United States and in the Wynyard (Sask.) district, and served overseas with the Canadian expeditionary forces from 1916 to 1919, being decorated for courage in the battle of Arras and Amiens.

From 1922 to 1938 while farming at Wynyard, Mr. Johnson was very active in the co-operative movement. He assisted in the organization of the Wheat Pool, served as secretary of the Wynyard Wheat Pool committee and was shipping manager of the Wynyard and district Livestock Pool from 1929 to 1935.

Mr. Johnson was Pool Elevator

Agent at Mozart, Sask., from 1938 to 1944 during which period he assisted in organizing the Mozart Credit Union of which he was secretary for several years. He was also secretary of District 9, C.C.I.L. (Canadian Co-operative Implements Limited) from 1941 to 1944 in which year he became a full-time C.C.I.L. organizer. Since 1945 Mr. Johnson has been a member of the Provincial Mediation Board in Regina.

There was recently organized in Saskatchewan, the Co-operative Trust Company Limited, for the purpose of making long term loans to members and for the administration of estates. In addition to his many other duties Mr. Johnson has assumed management of this company.

Barney Johnson was born at Kyrholti in Viðvíkursveit, Skagafjarðarsýsla, Iceland, in 1897. His parents, who are living with him in Regina, are Jónas Jónsson and his wife Helga Gunnlaugsdóttir. His great-grandfather was Rev. Jónas Jónsson, Pastor at Reykholti in Borgarfjörður. On his mother's side he is descended from Rev. Björn Arnþórsson, Pastor at Garði in Kjelduhverfi, Viðvíkursveit. The family came from Iceland in the spring of 1902 and settled first at Mountain, N. Dak., moving to the Wynyard district in 1906, where they homesteaded.



## *Dr. and Mrs. P. H. T. Thorlakson Honored At Testimonial Dinner*

In honor of P. H. T. Thorlakson, M.D., LL.D., and Mrs. Thorlakson, a testimonial dinner, under the auspices of The Icelandic National League, was held in the Royal Alexandra Hotel, Winnipeg, on April 30, 1953. Other Icelandic organizations were asked to participate and about 150 people, mostly of the Icelandic community, attended. Rev. V. J. Eylands, the President of the League, was master of ceremonies.

On behalf of the Government of Iceland, Grettir L. Johannson, the Icelandic Consul, presented Dr. Thorlakson with the Knight Commander Order of the Falcon. Dr. A. H. S. Gillson, President of The University of Manitoba, paid tribute to Dr. and Mrs. Thorlakson, particularly in relation to their services on behalf of the university. Greetings were extended to Dr. Thorlakson by Dr. C. W. Burns, President of the Canadian Medical Association and by Dr. C. B. Stewart, member of the Winnipeg Clinic, which was founded by Dr. Thorlakson.

Professor Finnbogi Gudmundsson thanked Dr. Thorlakson and through him the committee of which he was chairman and the donors for their work and their contributions in raising the \$200,000.00 Foundation Fund for the Chair in Icelandic.

Greetings were extended from the following organizations: The Leif Eirikson Club, by Miss L. Eylands; the Good Templar Chapters by J. T. Beck; the Chapter Frón of the Icelandic National League by Jon Asgeirsson;

the Columbia Press Ltd. by G. F. Jonasson.

Mrs. Flora Benson, Regent of the Jon Sigurdson Chapter I.O.D.E. paid a warm tribute to Dr. Thorlakson's mother and to Mrs. Thorlakson. Rev. H. S. Sigmar spoke on behalf of the family and Einar P. Jonsson read a poem he had composed in honor of Dr. Thorlakson.

Arni G. Eggertson, Q.C. delivered the main address of the evening in which he paid tribute to Dr. Thorlakson for his outstanding service as a surgeon, a humanitarian and an enthusiast in the cause of his Icelandic heritage. For all this, he said, Dr. Thorlakson had received recognition from his profession, been honored by the Government of Iceland and been awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, by his Alma Mater, The University of Manitoba.

Judge W. J. Lindal, President of the Icelandic Canadian Club, extended greetings from the club and proposed a toast to Mrs. Thorlakson. He referred to incidents in her life which revealed her qualities of mind, her courage and devotion to duty, the training given by her and her husband to their children, Tannis, Robert and Kenneth, who in their undergraduate years had taken such a varied interest in university activities and in the community about them. He pointed to the splendid service Mrs. Thorlakson had rendered to The University of Manitoba during the nine years she was on the Board of Governors. Mrs. V. J. Eylands presented Mrs. Thorlakson with a corsage.

Mrs. Lincoln Johnson, accompanied by Miss Sigrid Bardal and Mr. Robert Publow, accompanied by Mrs. R. McKidd, rendered vocal solos and an orchestra, led by Palmi Palmason, played a number of selections many of which were Icelandic.

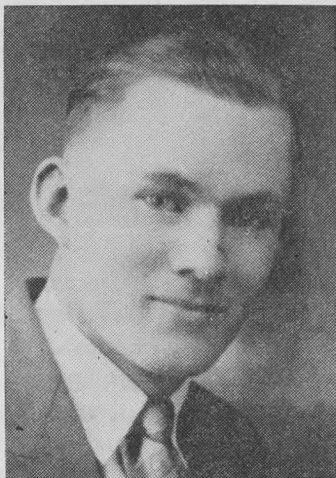
A number of congratulatory telegrams were read by the chairman.

In responding on behalf of Mrs. Thorlakson and himself, Dr. Thorlak-

son expressed his appreciation to all who had taken part in the arrangements for the testimonial dinner. He very graciously thanked all the speakers and the artists and included in his remarks Miss Margret Petursson and Dr. L. A. Sigurdson, the only two members of the Foundation Committee who had not taken part in the proceedings.

The gathering closed with God Save the Queen.

## WORKS HIS WAY THROUGH UNIVERSITY



**Gudmundur A. Eyjolfson**

When **Gudmundur A. Eyjolfson** received his B.A. degree from the University of British Columbia in June, 1951, he had reached this milestone by a circuitous route of summer school courses, extra-mural study while teaching school at depression wages, and "batching" in Winnipeg while attending the U. of M. for two years.

At present on the Vancouver staff as a high school teacher, Mr. Eyjolfson was born at Langruth in 1912 and

took his high school training partly at the Daniel McIntyre Collegiate in Winnipeg. During one of his summer courses he was awarded the Dr W. A. McIntyre scholarship of \$50.00. He took his Normal School training at the Normal school in Winnipeg in 1934-5 and taught in Manitoba for several years, moving to Vancouver in 1947. There he continued teaching and studying extra-murally and at summer schools until his graduation from the U. of B. C.

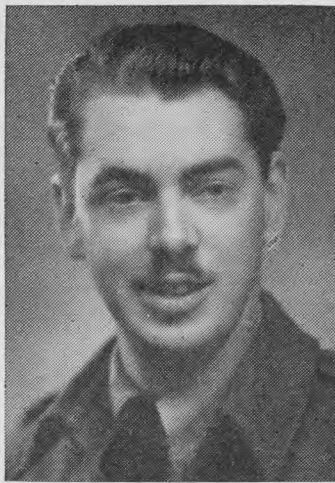
Mr. Eyjolfson's father, August Samuel Eyjolfson came from Laugavatni, Laugardal, in Árnessýsla, Iceland in 1901. His mother, Gudrun Grimsdóttir Eyjolfson came from Iceland in 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Eyjolfson farmed at Langruth and then at Otto, P.O. near Lundar, Man., moving to the town of Lundar in 1945. Mrs. Eyjolfson has seven brothers and sisters in the old country and left for Iceland in June to visit them.

Gudmundur Eyjolfson is married and lives in South Burnaby, a Vancouver suburb. His younger brother Emil, served as a Flying Officer in the RCAF in World War II (see Icel. Can. March 1944) he received the Distinguished Flying Cross for "utmost fortitude, courage and devotion to duty".

## WAR SERVICE RECORD



Cpl. Sigurdur G. Petursson

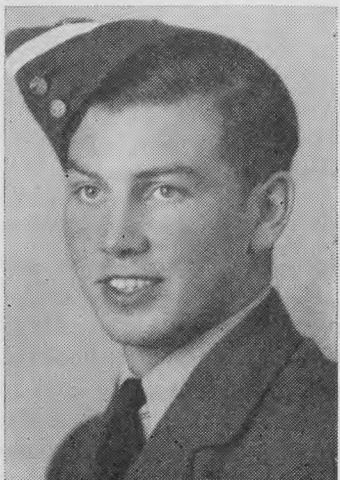


Pte. Petur B. Petursson

**CPL. SIGURDUR GUNNAR PETURSSON** — Born in Winnipeg, Man., June 30, 1925. He joined the Infantry in 1944 and later transferred to the Service Corps. Saw service in France, Germany and Holland. Discharged June 1946.

**PTE. PETUR BJARNI PETURSSON** — Born in Winnipeg, Man., June 26, 1921. He joined the reserve unit in 1939. Joined the Infantry in 1940 and transferred to the Ordnance Corps 1941. Embarked overseas in 1942. Was stationed there until July 1944, when he returned home. Discharged November 1945.

Sons of Mrs. Anna (McNab) Petursson and the late Olafur Petursson, Winnipeg, Man.



Pte. Sigurdur W. McNab



Pte. John F. McNab

**PTE. SIGURDUR WALTER McNAB** — Born in Kristnes, Sask., April 3, 1924. He joined the R.C.A.F. in 1941. In 1944 he transferred to the Artillery of the Canadian Army. His entire service was in Canada.

**PTE. JOHN FRANKLIN McNAB** — Born in Kristnes, Sask., Feb. 8, 1922. He joined the Forestry Corps in Nov. 1940. Embarked overseas 1941. Later transferred to Lanark and Renfrew Regiment and served as despatch rider with the 8th Army. He saw service in Sicily, Germany and Italy.

Sons of Mr. J. A. and Mrs. (Solrun Magnusson) McNab, Winnipeg, Man.

# Graduates and Scholarships

At The University of Manitoba

## Bachelor of Arts, General Course

**Dorthy Merle Kristjanson**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Kristjanson of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

**Arthur Johannes Sigurdson**, son of Dr. and Mrs. L. A. Sigurdson

**Joyce Marie Thordarson**

## Bachelor of Science, General Course

**Francis Donald Johnson**

**Victor Allan Laxdal**, son of Thordur and Johanna Laxdal, of Arcola, Sask., nephew of J. K. Laxdal, Winnipeg.

**George Bruce White**, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. P. White, of Winnipeg.

## Bachelor of Science Pharmacy

**Eyfi Oliver Walterson.**

## Bachelor of Law

**Gunnar Orn Eggertson, B.A.**, son of Thorey Eggerston and the late Arni Eggertson, of Winnipeg.

**Leifur Julius Hallgrimson, B.A.**, won Law Society of Manitoba prize for 2nd highest standing in 4th year. Son of Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Hallgrimson of Winnipeg.

**Harold Huppe, B.A.**, grandson of August Vopni.

## Doctor of Medicine.

**Raymond Johnson, B.A.**, (Sask) Honors.

**Gestur Kristjansson**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ludvik Kristjansson of Winnipeg. Dr. G. Kristjansson, has accepted a post with a Hospital in Botineau, N. Dak.

**John Donald Thordarson**, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Thordarson, of Winnipeg.

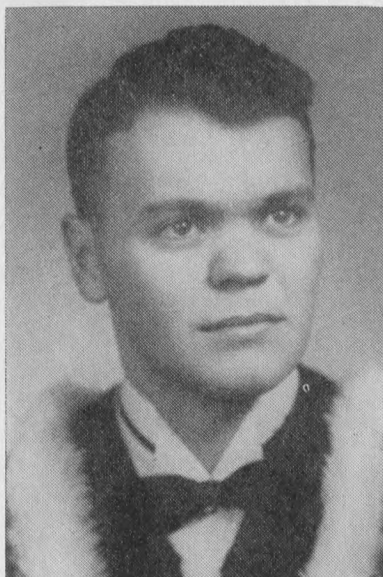
When **Dr. Jack D. McKenty** received his medical degree at the U. of M. in May, he was the third in line to graduate in medicine from that institution. In 1925 his father Dr. Jack McKenty received the M.D. Diploma, and his grandfather, the late Dr. Donald McKenty graduated in 1911. It is believed that this is the first time any family has had members of three generations graduate from the Manitoba Medical College.

The young doctor was married in May 1952, to Betty White (see "Modern Cinderella", Icel. Can. Winter '47) daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. P. White of Winnipeg. The young couple spent last year in Saskatoon where the doctor was interning. During that time Betty worked as a reporter on the Star-Phoenix, and later as secretary to the Head of the Economics Dpt. at the U. of Sask.

Dr. and Mrs. Jack D. McKenty returned to Winnipeg June 9, where the doctor is at present in practice with his father. He expects to do post-graduate work next year. Mrs. Jack (Jr.) will go to summer school to complete several units towards her fourth year in Arts. Her brother George Bruce White graduated this year as Bachelor of Pedagogy.

Mrs. Jack McKenty Sr., is the former Inga Tergesen of Gimli. Their daughter, Betty Jane McKenty has won numerous scholarships and received her M.A. degree from the U. of M. in 1952.



**Bachelor of Science (Home Ecs.)****Joan Augusta Vopni.****Bachelor of Science Engineering****John Edwin Bjarni Thorsteinsson,**  
Electrical Engineering.**Philip Olafur Hallgrimur Petursson**  
Mechanical Engineering (as at Feb. 1953), son of Rev and Mrs. P. M. Petursson, Winnipeg, Man.**John Edward Spring****John Edward Spring,** Civil Engineering. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Spring of Howardville, Man. Mrs. Spring was the former Svava Johnson, daughter of Benedikt Jónsson, who came from Hólum in Hjaltadal, Iceland.

On graduation from high school at Riverton, John Edward was awarded the Hotelkeeper's and Brewer's bursary of \$350. He won this scholarship also during his four years at the University. In his second year he won the McKechnie scholarship of \$180.00, the Isbister award, and the California

Standard Oil bursary of \$350. He is at present in the employ of this company at Calgary, and will be sent by his employers to attend a summer post-graduate course at Pennsylvania University.

**Magnus Ingiberg Danielson,** Mechanical Engineering.**Angantyr Arnason, M. A.,** Bachelor of Education. Son of Maria Arnason, and the late Sveinbjorn Arnason of Winnipeg, Manitoba.**Bachelor of Pedagogy****Johanna Gudrun Wilson, B.Sc., (H. Ec.),** daughter of Mrs. J. B. Skaptason and the late J. B. Skaptason of Winnipeg.**Margaret Sigvaldason, B.A.,** daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Sigvaldason of Riverton.**George Bruce White, B.Sc.,** son of Mr. and Mrs. G. P. White, Winnipeg.**B. of Science in Agriculture****Wilmar Theodore Sigvaldason****Olafur Allan Olson****William Gisli Olafson****Harry Howard Long,** son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Long, of Edmonton. Mrs. Long was formerly Gudny Kristjanson, her parents being Mr. and Mrs. Sigurbjorn Kristjanson of Lundar, Man.**UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS****Norma O. Johnson,** Sir James Aikins Scholarship, in First Year English, \$60.00**Jon Sigurdson,** Marcus Hyman memorial scholarship (for highest aggregate in second year arts, (75% minimum) and Isbister honorable mention; son of Dr. and Mrs. L. A. Sigurdson, Winnipeg.

### Graduates in Nursing

**Aurora Joyce Thordarson**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Thordarson.

**Thorbjorg Emily Sigvaldason**.

### Gimli Medalist



**Donna Mae Einarson**

**Donna Mae Einarson** received the Governor-General's gold medal as the outstanding graduating student at Gimli (Man.) Collegiate institute's graduation exercises held in the Gimli (dance) pavillion, early in June.

In addition to her high scholastic standing, Donna Mae was commended for her participation in extra-curricular activities, and sports. She was editor of the school year book, and member of the staff of the school paper, and the social committee.

Donna Mae is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Einar S. Einarson of Gimli, Man. Mrs. Einarson was formerly Violet D. L. Bristow, her mother who resides at Gimli, is Mrs. Gudrun (Gottskalkson) Bristow.

### Again Wins Highest Honors

**Miss Margaret Erickson** of Elfros, Sask., won top honors in the ninth annual Musical Festival in Wynyard,

Sask., May 12th. These included: — (1) Saskatchewan Musical Association and C.P.R. Scholarship award of \$20.00 for the competitor who in the opinion of the adjudicator, shows the most promise (not necessarily the winner of the class). (2) Shield and pin for the highest festival mark for vocal solo, from the Nightingale Rebekah Lodge of Foam Lake, and (3) Engraved Rose Bowl for highest individual Festival mark presented on behalf of the Wynyard Lions Club. This was earned in the vocal solo class 414, with marks of 85 and 86.

Last year Miss Erickson won the University Scholarship in piano Grade XIII. (see Icel. Can. Winter '52, p. 47).

### Medalist



**Miss Viola Bjarnason**

**Miss Viola Bjarnason** this year won the Governor General's medal on finishing her Grade 11 at the Minnedosa Collegiate, Minnedosa, Man. The medal was presented to her at the graduation banquet in the Legion Hall, for scholarship, leadership and athletic ability.

Viola is the great-granddaughter of

Oddny and Eirikur Bjarnason pioneers in the Thingvalla district (see article on Oddny Bjarnason, in this issue). Her grandparents were the late Sigurdur Bjarnason and his wife Bjorg Bjarnason. Viola's parents who live in Minnedosa, are, Mr. and Mrs. Barney Bjarnason. Mrs. Bjarnason (Gudrun) is also from the Thingvalla district, being a daughter of Kristjan and Petrina Kristjanson.

Viola has been active in C.G.I.T., leader of Brownies, recreation and cultural convener of the Y. P. A. (Young People's Union, in the United Church) and treasurer of the Student's Organization of the Minnedosa Collegiate.

#### Receives Masters Degree

**Gordon D. Campbell** graduated as B.Sc., civil engineering from the University of Manitoba in 1952. This spring he completed his course for the Masters Degree at the University at Lafayette, Indiana. Mr. Campbells mother is Icelandic, Olga, daughter of Maria Arnason of Winnipeg and the late Sveinbjorn Arnason. Mr. Campbell is at present with the Federal Government in the Department of Trans-Canada Highways Branch.

#### Isbister Scholarships

**Andrea Sigurjonsson**, (fourth year, honors) \$80.00. Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Sigurjonsson, Makaroff, Man.

**Allan A. Beck** (for highest standing in second year Pharmacy) \$60.00. Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Beck, Winnipeg.

**Richard A. Johnson** (third year Electrical Engineering) Isbister award of \$80.00 for highest standing in his class. Son of Prof. and Mrs. Skuli Johnson, Winnipeg.

**Erlingur Kari Eggertson** (third year

Law) \$80.00. Also the Carswell Co. prize of books, value \$20.00. Son of Mrs. Thorey Eggertson of Winnipeg and the late Arni Eggertson.

**Arnold B. Bjornson** (third year Civil Engineering) \$80.00.

**Students Receiving Commissions For Military Training at University Lieutenant, R.C.N. (Reserve)**

**Arnold Bruce Bjornson**

**Royal Can. Infantry Corps Lieut.**

**Erlingur Kari Eggertson**

**Gilbert J. Frederick Stefanson**



**Miss Joan Erickson**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Erickson, Selkirk, Man. is the 1953 winner of the Governor-General's medal for general proficiency in Central Collegiate, Selkirk.

**Miss Christine Sigvaldason**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. V. Sigvaldason of Arbog, Man., who just graduated from the Provincial Normal School, was awarded the Viking Club Scholarship, of \$50.00 given at the School.

## GRADUATES IN B. C.

**John Edward Potter, B.A.**, received his degree of Bachelor of Laws, May 19, from the U. of B. C. His mother is the former Bertha Johnson, daughter of Snæbjorn and Ingibjorg Johnson, pioneers at Lunda, Man.



**Miss Charlotte Oliver**, graduated May 12, from St. Paul's School of Nursing, Vancouver, B. C.



**Daniel Milton Oliver, B.A.**, received his Bach. of Laws degree at the U. of B. C. May 19, 1953. An outstanding rugby player, Danny playing with the U. of B. C. Thunderbirds is the winner of the Vancouver English Rugby Union's most prized award (1952-53), the Howie McPhee Trophy.

This trophy, honoring the great UBC athlete of the late thirties, is awarded annually to the VRU player who best combines ability, sportmanship and leadership. Danny Oliver has played first string with the Thunderbirds for three years. He is the second UBC player to earn the McPhee award.

Danny was born in Wynyard, Sask., in 1929 and attended school there until moving to the west coast in 1942.

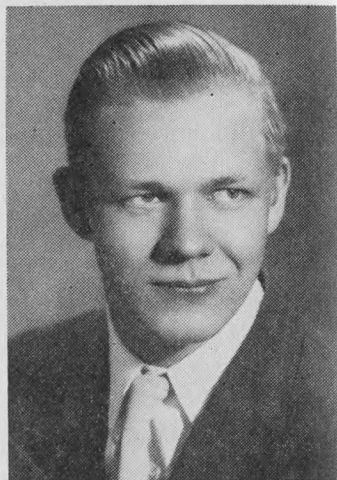
Daniel and Charlotte are children of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Oliver, formerly of Selkirk and Wynyard, now living in Vancouver. Mrs. Oliver was, before her marriage, Kristine Dalman of Baldur, Manitoba.



**Douglas Scott Steinson, B.A.**, (U. of B. C. 1952) passed his teacher's training course with second class honors from the U. of B. C., this year.

For the past two years he has been

president of the Student Liberal Club and has taken an active part in the United Nations Club. While attending Lord Tweedsmuir High School at



**Douglas Scott Steinson**

Cloverdale, B. C., he won the oratory contest of 1948, and was Mayor of Teen Town.

Douglas was born at Melfort, Sask. in 1930, and is the son of Skapti and Norma Steinson of Cloverdale, B. C. His maternal grandparents are, the late Helgi Paulson, formerly of Elfros, Sask., and his wife, Helga (Eggertson) who now lives with the Steinsons at Cloverdale.

## OUR CHARACTERISTICS

Vincent Massey, governor-general said last fall, at Three Rivers, it is in the interest of Canada that its racial groups each retain their particular characteristics.

Mr. Massey said no one wanted a country which would be "an agglomeration of citizens of various origins who have sacrificed their most personal and original characteristics."



## To Our Readers : *A Personal Message*

At this time when I am relinquishing my position on **The Icelandic Canadian**, I wish to say a few words of warmest thanks to our readers for the co-operation and support I have received from them during the past six and a half years.

A great many of our readers have made a practice of collecting short items of news, which with some added information gleaned from various sources, has made interesting news stories or short features. This has been of much help in our effort to collect and preserve the history of the Icelandic pioneers here, and the current history of their descendants.

I wish also to thank all of you for the many hundreds of letters of encouragement and generous, sincere commendation. They have been greatly appreciated and have given me courage and stimulation in the work. "The work of the trail-breaker is often a thankless task", said one of our readers in a recent letter. But I must admit that our readers, with their generous participation, have made the expanding of the Icelandic Canadian Magazine an adventure in achievement. Their letters testify, undeniably that it has not been "a thankless task!"

I wish to thank also those editors and publications that have helped to make this work effective, by comments or reprinting from the magazine: the editors of *The Free Press*, *Tribune* and *Heimskringla*, Winnipeg; and the editors of *Morgunblaðið*, *Lesbók*, *Kvöldvökur*, *Eimreiðin*, and *Dagur*, in Iceland. There may be other publications in Iceland that have supported our

effort to preserve the history of the Icelanders here, and I will at this time take the opportunity to thank all of them.

My thanks to the many who have written articles for the Magazine, and in that way given generously of their time and talents to a project which they have considered valuable from the cultural and literary standpoint. A Greek philosopher has been quoted as saying that: "The best work is always done without remuneration".

I thank also the staff of Viking Printers for courteous co-operation at all times.

So, to our readers: my deep and abiding gratitude!

Holmfridur Danielson

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### ICELAND'S THOUSAND YEARS

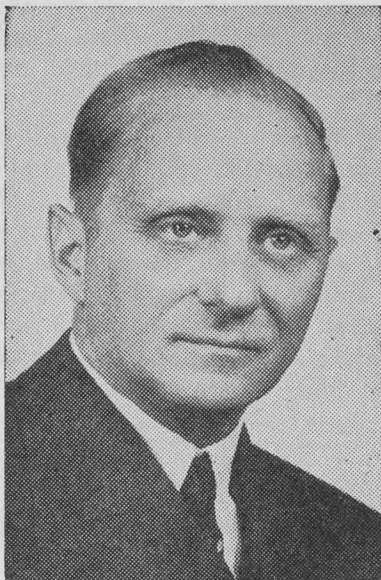
It was reported at the annual meeting of the I. C. Club that through the organization, publication and sales of the book, **Iceland's Thousand Years**, \$800.00 has been earned for the club over and above expenses. It was this fund which made it possible for the club to participate by contributing a thousand dollars, in the splendid effort of raising the foundation fund for the Icelandic Chair.

The book has been selling very well in Iceland, \$100.00 having just been received for sales there during the last year.

The book sells for \$1.00, the paper backed copy, and \$2.00 for the bound edition. Order from:

Mrs. H. F. Danielson  
869 Garfield St.  
Winnipeg, Canada

## Honoured By United College



**Dr. V. J. Eylands**

At its April meeting The Senate of United College, Winnipeg, voted to confer the degree of Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa) on **Rev. V. J. Eylands**, Pastor of First Lutheran Church. The official presentation of this honour will be made to him in connection with the 75th anniversary of the First Lutheran Church next October.

In 1945 Rev. Eylands made a valuable contribution to the historical records of the Lutheran Church, when he wrote and published his book, — "Lutherans in Canada" The book contains a section on the history of the Icelandic Lutheran church in this country. The work of collecting and organizing this material was prodigious, and with painstaking thoroughness Mr. Eylands included carefully compiled tables of statistics.

Rev. Eylands has been a tireless

worker in many phases of community activities among the Icelanders. He is President of the Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and editor of its periodical "Sameiningin", which is now in its 72nd. year, and is the oldest religious periodical in the Icelandic language. He has been at various times chairman of the Icelandic Celebration Committee, is President of the Icelandic National League, and a member of the Canadian Lutheran Council.



### MRS. CARTER HONOURED

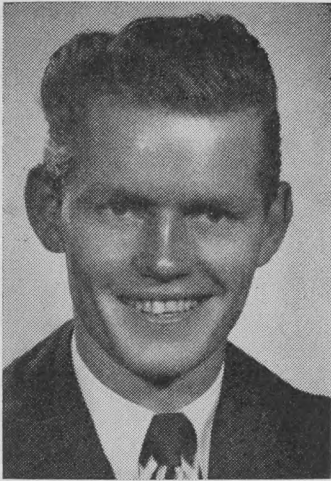
**Mrs. Kate Carter** of Salt Lake City, Utah, (see Icel. Can. Spring '53) has been once again honoured for her contribution to the culture of her state and the country as a whole.

Recently the State of Nebraska held a three-day celebration to mark the occasion of the dedication of a very long bridge over the Missouri River. Thousands of Utah residents were in attendance as Nebraska was honouring the Utah pioneers by naming the bridge, **Mormon Memorial Bridge**. Mrs. Kate Carter was given the honour of unveiling the memorial plaque.

The morning before she left for this celebration she received a telephone call from New York City, telling her that she had been awarded the Mary McBride award. She was chosen for this honor from candidates from eleven Western States, all of whom have given distinguished service. On June 25, Mrs. Carter flew to New York to be the guest of the award committee for four days and to receive the award.

## IN THE NEWS

### ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT



**Herbert Sigurdson**

When **Herbert Sigurdson** was promoted to the position of Assistant Superintendent of the Juvenile Detention Home in Vancouver last year, he was the youngest official ever to attain this position.

Herbert was born in 1913, the son of Herman Sigurdson formerly of Eriksdale, Man., and his wife Helga Bjarnason from Churchbridge, Sask. His grandfather, Jón Sigurðsson came from Iceland in 1888 and settled in the district West of Lake Manitoba and then moved to Eriksdale. He is a descendant of an outstanding family in Northern Iceland (Sigurður Jónsson at Illugastöðum, in Fnjóskadal). Herbert's maternal grandmother was Oddny Bjarnason, a well-known graduate nurse in the pioneer district of Thingvalla, Sask., (see "The Healing Hand" in this issue.)

Herbert attended school in Churchbridge, at West Kildonan Collegiate,

and at King Edward High School in Vancouver, after the family moved there in 1944. At the University of B. C., Herbert took a pre-medical course for two years but, there being no school of Medicine at the U. of B. C. at that time, he took his B.A. degree and changed his course to social work. He took a post-graduate course and received his Bach. of Social Work in 1951. During his course he studied field placement at the Vancouver Juvenile Court and upon graduation was taken on staff, occupying the position of Probation Officer of the Juvenile Court until August 1952, when he was promoted to the position of Assistant Superintendent of the Vancouver Detention Home.

Herbert was married in Sept., 1951 to Margaret Dunn, a Youth Supervisor at the Detention Home. They have a daughter, born Jan. 26, 1953.

\* \* \*

### HONORED

On May 8th last, **Mrs. Adalbjorg Brandson** was presented with an illuminated Scroll, as a tribute for her long and faithful service on the Executive Committee of Betel, Home for the Aged at Gimli, Man. Mrs. Brandson assumed the position of president of that committee in 1945. Her late husband, Dr. B. J. Brandson M.D., L.L.D., had held this position from the organization of the Home until his death in 1944. The Scroll was signed by the Executive of the Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod and The Executive Committee of Betel. It was presented by Rev. S. Olafsson of Selkirk, and Rev. V. J. Eylands, of Winnipeg president of the Synod.

## AWARDED DRAMA SCHOLARSHIP

Mrs. H. F. Danielson has been awarded the Drama Scholarship given by the Manitoba Drama League, covering the cost of the full course in Drama at the Banff School of Fine Arts, this summer.

This award is made to those who have made a worthy contribution to Manitoba's culture in the sphere of Drama.

Mrs. Danielson was active in dramatics for a number of years, both as director and in leading roles. She directed, and took the major role in the play from Arborg, Man., which won the top award in the First Manitoba Drama Festival. She conducted drama and choral groups for the Dominion-Provincial Youth Training Schools in 1937 and 1938, and prepared a short pamphlet on drama study, which was mimeographed and used in these schools in various parts of the country.

She has also written and produced short sketches, pageants and a two-act play which was performed in Arborg, Gimli and Winnipeg. She wrote and produced a pageant, "The Symbol of Iceland", performed at the three-day Folk Festival sponsored by the W.M. C.A. of Winnipeg on the occasion of their centenary in 1951. This pageant, which was considered among the outstanding productions of the Festival both as to theme and artistic arrangement, had been performed the year before in aid of the foundation fund of the Icelandic Chair, and sponsored by the Jon Sigurdson Chapter, I.O.D. E. It was recorded on coloured film strips, with the music and commentary on an accompanying tape recorder, to

preserve it for the Icelandic archives at the University of Manitoba.

Mrs. Danielson has given radio talks and also directed youth groups in drama and choral work in various parts of Manitoba and in the Icelandic community of North Dakota. She will leave for Banff at the beginning of July where she will also study play-writing and radio writing.



## INVITED TO ICELAND

Mrs. Rosa Benediktsson of Markerville, Alberta, was invited to visit Iceland this summer, as an honour to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of her father, the renowned poet, Stephan G. Stephansson. Jointly sponsoring her trip are: the Icelandic Government, The Icelandic Airways, "Loftleiðir", and some friends of hers in Canada.

Mrs. Benediktsson was among some forty people of Icelandic descent who flew from New York June 8, for a six-week's group tour organized by Prof. Finnbogí Gudmundsson.

In a letter just received from Frú Ólöf Sigurðardóttir, our representative in Iceland, news of these happy travellers describes their reception in Iceland as follows:

"The travellers were met officially at Reykjavík Airport, and they were taken to **Bessastaðir**, the home of the President of Iceland, as his guests for luncheon. In the evening a reception was held for the visitors by the Prime Minister, and the next day they were taken for a short trip to Laugavatn, as guests of the Mayor of Reykjavík. Staying there over night they went next day to see the historic spots of **Gullfoss** and **Geysir**. The following Sunday the group was invited to visit



"Þingvellir" the historic plains of Parliament, as guests of the National League in Iceland, where the Bishop of Iceland held an outdoor service, followed by dinner at the tourist hotel "Valhöll".

Mrs. Rosa Benediktsson as a special guest was invited to speak over the radio in Reykjavík.



### BJARNASON RETURNS FROM KOREA

Stefan Bjarnason of Toronto, assistant national commissioner of the Canadian Red Cross returned from Seoul, South Korea, in May where he had been on a semi-annual liaison visit usually made to the workers in the field there, by an officer from Red Cross headquarters in Toronto.

While there Mr. Bjarnason went to Pusan and formally presented a gift of \$20,000 worth of textiles for youngsters in Korea. The money was raised by the Canadian Junior Red Cross and is a gift from its national service fund. Textiles were bought in Japan, where a Korean woman teacher spent three months learning self-help methods. She is now back in Korea and the cloth is being used in a program of self-help in the schools, which was launched in Pusan.

Mr. Bjarnason said on his return, that the Red Cross officials try to keep in close touch with the various fields where aid is being given, "We like to see if there is anything new we can provide", he said.



### PASTOR TO STUDY IN SCANDINAVIA

A scholarship provided by the State University of Iceland has been offered to Rev. Eric Sigmar, of Seattle, Wash. The scholarship provides a full year of study, tuition free, at the University in Reykjavík. Living quarters for Pastor and Mrs. Sigmar, and a cash stipend of \$600. Pastor Sigmar has accepted this opportunity, and his congregation in Seattle has granted him a year's leave of absence beginning this August 1st. The Board of Education of the United Lutheran Church has also supplemented this scholarship by granting a Student Fellowship which will help in making this year of graduate study possible. In conjunction with this year of study in Iceland, Rev. Sigmar hopes to be able to spend six weeks attending theological lectures at the University of Lund in Sweden. Calvary Church

## THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

869 GARFIELD ST., WINNIPEG, CANADA

A quarterly magazine, published by The Icelandic Canadian Club.

**EDITORIAL BOARD**—Holmfríður Danielson, Chairman; Judge W. J. Lindal, Halldor J. Stefansson, Jon K. Laxdal, Dr. Áskell Löve.

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**Representative in Iceland** — Frú Ólöf Sigurðardóttir, 26 C.Vesturgötu, Reykjavík.

Sími: 1812

Authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Dept., Ottawa

is now in the process of securing a full-time supply pastor.

Pastor Sigmar is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Haraldur Sigmar of Blaine, Wash. He was married two years ago to Miss Svava Palsson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vilhelm Palsson of Geysir, Man. That summer he took up his new

duties as Pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church in Seattle. Prior to that time he had served the Icelandic congregations in the Argyle district.

His brother, Rev. Harald S. Sigmar is pastor of the Gimli Lutheran Church.

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## BOOK REVIEW

### SELECTED ODES OF HORACE

Translated into English verse by  
Skuli Johnson

R. Y. Tyrrell in his introduction to Horace has said that the Odes of Horace are the best-known poetry in the world and that if every copy of them were destroyed tomorrow it would be easy to form a committee from the House of Commons which could restore from memory the entire text within a week. These words were written at the beginning of this century and though they are, no doubt true today, I think the number of members of the House of Commons, whether it be in London, Ottawa, or Winnipeg, who could restore from memory the entire text of Horace is not as great as it was in the past when every educated man and woman had the advantage of a classical education.

Now there are a great many college graduates, even in the arts and humanities, who have never studied Latin, and but for a scholar like Skuli Johnson, who can change Latin poetry into English poetry, a great many of us would not have so much as a nodding acquaintance with the works of one of the world's great poets.

This volume contains only thirty-two of the one-hundred-four odes in the complete works of Horace, but it

is a representative selection. Horace wrote of friendship, patriotism, love and what for want of a better word, I shall say as a moralist, and poems dealing with all these themes are found in this volume.

Horace lived in a stirring age and was a close friend of the Emperor Augustus. He witnessed the founding of the Roman Empire, one of the greatest political institutions the world has ever seen, and his patriotic odes voice the spirit of the age. It is fascinating to read of Cleopatra's defeat as told by a poet who was living at the time when she "plotted the ruin of the Capitol", and to hear his warnings against civil war very much in the vein a modern poet might warn us of dissensions between the democratic countries.

Most of the love poems are for the middle aged, the spirit is that of the moth who has been slightly singed by the candle, but has recovered sufficiently to look back with nostalgia on one of the most exciting experiences of his life.

All of us have heard of the Sabine Farm and the Fountain of Bandusea, and it is pleasant to meet them first hand in this volume. The description of winter in the country an invitation to supper and two hymns, one to Fa-

unus and the other to Diana on dedicating a pine tree bring back to life the religious spirit of that pagan age.

This volume should prove a worth while introduction to Horace. He must have been a kindly, good-natured, disillusioned man who loved life for its creature comforts, though he was no Sybarite; a man who sang in praise of good wine, good company and love, but who had learned life's lesson of contentment and "a joy entire in what I have". In his ode to Licinius on "The Golden Mean," he advised him to keep hope alive in ill fortune and to furl his sails in a too favorable gale.

In his ode to Melpomene, he asks "That passers-by their fingers point  
at me  
As Rome's bard: lyric power."  
His prayer has been granted

The poem in Latin appears on the page opposite each translation. Even though your classical education goes back to your high school days, it is possible to read the original with the help of the translation and see how closely the translator has come to the form and meaning of the original.

H. S.

**ON TRACK AND FIELD:**  
by Art Reykdal, Pauper Press,  
Winnipeg, 1953. 76 pp., —  
paper bound,

*On Track and Field*, by Art Reykdal, is a very readable, informal history of the Grettir Amateur Athletic Club, of Lundar, Manitoba, from its formation, 1912, to date. There is also a glance at achievements of athletes from the Lundar district prior to the formation of the Club, and more recent exploits of individual athletes

in wider competition; a biographical sketch of Paul Reykdal, founder of the Club and its mainspring for the first 16 years of its history; a translation by Art Reykdal of V. J. Guttormsson's "The Lay of Grettir and his Band", originally in the Icelandic, and a brief sketch of Grettir the Strong, specially contributed by Heimir Thorgrimson.

Outstanding earlier achievements of Lundar athletes mentioned, include Kristjan Backman's performance against Army Howard and Sibert, Canadian champion, Paul Reykdal's race against another Canadian sprint champion, Johnstone, and Stefan (Steve) Holm's triumph over the redoubtable Joe Keeper, Canadian Olympic runner.

The Grettir Club record, in track and field, baseball, wrestling, and hockey is inspiring. For ten consecutive years the Club held the Oddson shield, won in competition with teams representing the Icelandic communities in Winnipeg, Selkirk, Argyle and Gimli and other parts of New Iceland.

There were breaks after 1924, but there were further periods when the cup rested at Lundar. The individual championship was repeatedly won by stellar athletes such as Einar Johnson, A.O (Gusti) Magnusson, Oscar Thorgilson, and Sveinn Sigfusson. Magnusson and Sigfusson were both considered Olympic Games material, and Sigfusson's splendid record in all Canadian and British Empire Games competition needs no elaboration here. In baseball Kristjan Backman and A. (Gusti) Blondal were undoubtedly big league material.

The historical accuracy of the account rests on a solid basis. Paul Reykdal left draft material on which

the narrative is based and his son, Art, has obviously done much work to develop and prepare for publication. The account, however, is informal, as has been mentioned, and the reader does not learn about the completeness of some of the pictures. For instance, did Paul Reykdal approximate his picnic performance on the cinder path, as at the Icelandic celebration? Also, how complete is the coverage for the early years? The robust performance of Stefan A. Bjarnason, winner of three distance races in one day at a University of Manitoba meet come to mind. This is simply a reminder to keep in mind the actual scope of the work; not to imply inadequacies.

The narrative is free and easy, anecdotal with humorous touches. Perhaps Lunda men, better than others, will appreciate some crowing over signal Grettir victories, but it is all in good fun, and the ideal of good sportsmanship is stressed. The author's

filial love and pride in his father's achievements are in shining evidence, but as for himself, he is very modest.

In format and general appearance the book is attractive. There are illustrations, including pictures and pen sketches, and there are two tones. — Printing and paper are excellent.

Art Reykdal has the historian's true insight: "The past is not dead. It lives as long as it is remembered, and remains a challenge to the present and the future. Every community has its leaders; the men who originate projects, get behind them with all the energy and enthusiasm at their command, and see them through to the end. But their efforts will come to nothing if they are not supported by the community as a whole. It is this community spirit, so conspicuous during the pioneering days, that must be preserved if we are not to degenerate."

W. K.

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## The North-West Rebellion 1885

(Continued from Page 20)

fully checked Col. Otter's reconnaissance in force. Middleton, with the 90th in his column, proceeded to Fort Pitt, in pursuit of Big Bear.

Meanwhile, General Strange's column, including the Winnipeg Light Infantry, had proceeded from its base at Calgary, and engaged the enemy in a strong position at Frenchman's Butte near Fort Pitt. Here the W.L.I. was under fire for about three hours. At last one of the Icelandic soldiers (Sigurdur Anderson) felt the closeness of a bullet. The enemy outnumbered the column, three to one, but after the battle, Big Bear's men began to desert

and on July 2, Big Bear surrendered. The war was over.

Riel was taken in custody to Regina. One of the detachment assigned the duty of guarding the prisoners was Jon Julius, of the Manitoba Grenadiers. "I saw Riel and Poundmaker yesterday", he says (unpublished letter dated at Regina, July 15, 1885), and remarks on Riel's commanding presence. Of the Indian chief he says, — "Poundmaker is tall and keen-looking, with braids reaching to his waist". There is in the letter an expression of longing to be home with his wife and family, and five dollars were enclosed,



as, in a previous letter from Qu'Appelle, written in April.

One Icelandic soldier, at least, qualified as a souvenir-hunter, in the War of 1885. Thorarinn Breckman brought home from Riel's quarters at Regina his beaver cap, and a table cloth. Subsequently, Breckman's young son discovered that the cap made a good football, and ultimately it was lost.

General Middleton's main force, including the 90th, and a portion of the Light Infantry, arrived in Winnipeg, July 15th. The city gave them a royal welcome. There was a torch parade on the evening of July 17th. The order of the procession was: St. Andrews Society, St. George's Society, and the Icelandic Progressive Society, followed by others. It was an impressive sight. Two thousand torches made Main St. an undulating sea of light, and the people massed on the sidewalks, and filled the windows on either side.

The Icelandic community had a welcome home banquet for the first arrivals July 18, and a second, and more pretentious affair, August 1, both in the Progressive Society Hall. There was a large attendance at the second meet. Johann Palsson, of the 90th, related many incidents, especially from the battle of Batoche, and Jon Julius, of the Manitoba Grenadiers, gave an account of Indian customs and manners, including the war dance. For the first reception, the poet, Kristinn Stefansson, composed an ode to the 90th, reflecting the spirit of the occasion; there has been heroic conduct in battle, but now the swords are sheathed and the banners of victory up, and welcome to the brave.

The Icelandic soldiers received good commendation. "Major G. H. Young

(90th Battalion) reports that they have acquitted themselves splendidly, and that they were brave soldiers, ever ready to do their duty . . ." (Leifur, June 19, 1885). Jon Julius (in his letter from Qu'Appelle, April 30, 1885) voices his appreciation at being in Col. Scott's battalion, the commanding officer giving special attention to the welfare of the Icelanders in his unit. He states that the Icelanders have done well at target practice, and that Capt. Rome is pleased to have them in his company. "They have acquitted themselves well . . . They and their comrades have won an honor which will never be forgotten, and no one can deprive us of the distinction that we Icelanders, although few in number, have done our part manfully, for we doubt that any other racial group has contributed as many in proportion as we have . . ." (Leifur, June 19, 1885). The good service of the Icelandic soldiers enhanced the position of the Icelandic people in the eyes of their fellow-citizens more perhaps than anything else they had previously done.

Following the cessation of hostilities, there was apprehension of a possible recurrence of trouble, and the reserves were kept up to strength for some time. In 1886, an Icelandic company of forty in the 91st Winnipeg Light Infantry, was under process of formation, with Jon Julius as Colour-Sargent, and Erlendur Gislason and Jakob Johannsson as sergeants. Other Icelandic men joined the 90th.

Thus a contingent of Icelandic settlers in Manitoba, coming from a land that had no army, not a single man in uniform, and wholly unused to fighting, received their initiation in war.

## The Ninetieth Battalion

From the Icelandic poem by Kristinn Stefansson  
Translated by Dr. Watson Kirkconnell

Noble it is to guard one's native land,  
And noble seems the soldier's life at death,  
When the spent warrior leans upon his brand  
And with his heart's blood renders his last breath;  
But the dear land is safe, its foes lie strown,  
Fallen like grasses in a field new mown.

The men of Middleton for duty fought;  
Against the yelling enemy they strode;  
"At them, brave lads!" The loud call answer brought:  
Deep tides of thunder down the heaven flowed.  
Dark tongues of flame assailed the soldier's flesh  
And licked his dying blood with zeal afresh.

Then out of swelling wounds the lifeblood gushed  
As dusky foemen kissed the cold, hard clay;  
A hail of shot the foliage tore and crushed  
Where rolled the fiery volleys of the fray.  
On the red plain no fierce bright light flamed higher  
Then gleaming sparks of old Icelandic fire.

The Ninetieth Battalion did not yield  
But still rushed forward with their volley'd flame;  
With valour and renown they won the field  
And waved aloft the golden wand of fame,  
So that the praise of all in that grim fight  
Was raised from darkness to a shining light.

It is more meet to gird oneself for war  
Than suffer one's fair land to be reviled  
Or see it wronged by the conspirator;  
The wound one feels at fatherland defiled  
More deeply in the noble heart is set  
Than red-hot shot and shining bayonet.

It is more fitting on the field to die,  
Yes, far more fit are bullets through the heart,  
Than is a share in foolish infamy  
Or as a hanger-on to play one's part.  
Nobler it is by tyrants' hands to fall  
Than, pigeon-hearted, heed their beck and call.

Now swords are sheathed and victory's banners raised.  
Each welcomes back the ranks of heroes thinned  
In far-off conflict where the volleys blazed

And death on points of bayonets fiercely grinned,  
 Stained with the blood of dying enemies  
 In battle-frenzy on those grassy leas.

In truth we honor those who, thus enrolled,  
 As soldiers of our fair free land are found;  
 No curs are they, short-leashed, who all unbold  
 Circle and cross a tiny patch of ground.  
 We honour these brave lads, we hymn their story,  
 Who did not dread to walk the path of glory.

Leifur, July 24, 1885

## The Coronation

(Continued from Page 12)

the Holy Land to Spain, then to Ireland and from Ireland to Scotland. Unfortunately the composition of the Stone is very similar to rocks in Perthshire where the Kings of the Picts resided.

It is thus seen that the coronation marks the completion of a process whereby ancient heathen Teutonic and Celtic ceremonies became blended with a distinctly Christian hallowing or anointing rite. Edmund S. Carpenter says:

"It was far more than mere drama, for God was looking down on it, asking whether the crown had been passed from head to head as it should be. Only if the forms were duly observed and nothing omitted, did the coronation have its due effect."

In this ceremony, at once secular and spiritual, the foundation has been laid upon which rests the political and the essentially international structure of which the Queen is the Sovereign and the Head. It is this aspect of the coronation which gives it its world significance.

### QUEEN AND HEAD OF A COMMONWEALTH

How does the Queen, so crowned, exercise her power as the head of that

international structure which is now called The Commonwealth of Nations? The story of the growth of the Commonwealth will not be traced here except in barest outline. It is the latest form of the British Empire which has passed through four stages. In the days of Queen Elizabeth I, it was an ordinary Empire—a powerful state with a number of colonies. Then the Overseas Dominions, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa came into existence. In this period Queen Victoria became Empress of India as well as Queen of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions Beyond the Seas.

After the first world war the Overseas Dominions became nations with the same powers and rights as Britain itself. The group was renamed and was called The British Commonwealth of Nations. This lasted from the end of the first war until a few years after the end of the second world war. During this period of time the Crown, not the Sovereign, was the unifying element. The nations of the British Commonwealth were bound together by a "common allegiance to the Crown".

But in 1947 India became independent. The old India, of which Victoria

was Empress, divided into two, India and Pakistan. They both decided to become republics but desired to remain within the group. A change had to be made. The late King George VI could not be the King or Emperor of Republics. The Crown alone could no longer be the unifying element.

A conference of all the Prime Ministers in the Commonwealth was held in London in April 1949. At that conference it was India that solved the difficulty. The Prime Minister of India, Mr. Nehru, declared that India was prepared to accept the King as the head of the Commonwealth and as the symbol of the free association of the independent member nations of the Commonwealth. There had to be another christening and the King became Head of the Commonwealth, and what was at first The British Empire became The Commonwealth of Nations.<sup>1)</sup>

The Crown is no longer the only or even the main symbol of the free association and unity of the nations of the Commonwealth. The emphasis has been transferred to the Sovereign. Queen Elizabeth II is the Head of all the Commonwealth Nations and she is Queen of those who of their own free will have chosen that she be their Queen. Outside the United Kingdom they are Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Ceylon.

The style and titles of the Queen are worded a little differently in each of the nations in the group.

In Canada the Royal Style and Titles are:

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1) There is a colonial Empire consisting of the British Possessions which are still colonies. These Possessions were represented at the Coronation by Colonial contingents as distinguished from Commonwealth contingents. In her broadcast to her people Her Majesty referred to "the Commonwealth and Empire."

"Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, Canada and Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith."<sup>2)</sup>

The relationship between the Queen and her people in Canada and the other overseas nations may not be as close as in Britain. Indeed so close is that relationship in Britain that it has been said that "the sovereign is Britain". The sovereign is the embodiment of the finest in the British people. In that way the symbolism of the past in the coronation ceremony becomes something living and vibrant. It is difficult for people in foreign countries and indeed in the other countries of the Commonwealth to grasp this which, as so much else in Britain, is felt rather than written. It has been suggested that to bring Her Majesty closer to her people in the outside nations she should reside a part of the time in her overseas realms. Prime Minister Churchill is reported to have stated that he would broach the subject at the Commonwealth Conference which opens the day this is being revised.

### THE FUTURE OF THE COMMONWEALTH

At the coronation the Queen took an oath that she would govern the peoples of the nations of the Com-

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2) The above is contained in a Statute of Canada, passed at the last session of the Parliament of Canada and approved by Her Majesty in a Proclamation signed by her on Thursday May 29, 1953, and proclaimed the same day in a special edition of the Canada Gazette.

The proclamations for the other countries of the Commonwealth, signed by Her Majesty the same day, vary in recognition of their different constitutions and in some cases of their religion.



monwealth "according to their respective laws and customs."<sup>3)</sup>

What is this Commonwealth and is it worth preserving?

An American, Allan A. Michie, in his recent book, "God Save the Queen", gives the answer:

"A Commonwealth of Nations that is unique not only in the world of today but also in the history of the past—a functioning league of nations that binds together some 610,000,000 peoples of diverse races, creeds and colors, who profess a hundred and more religions, speak four or five hundred languages, and are scattered to the far corners of the earth."

Such an international body is, the Editor of International Conciliation has said: "of deep interest to the student of international organization." That brings up the question of succession. When the head of a group of states dies who is to succeed him? We have recently had good illustrations of the two ways in which this can be done. Stalin died and Maleukov succeeded him. He was not elected by the people or representatives of the people and he was not Stalin's son. Loaded guns and not votes or heredity put him there. The Head of the Commonwealth of Nations died. He was succeeded by his heir—the present Queen.

Thus it can be truly said that the Commonwealth is never without its Head. The coronation was the official recognition of that status of Her Majesty as well as of her status as the "un-

doubted Queen". Leaving aside personal loyalty, sentiment and tradition here is the value, in cold reasoning, of the constitutional monarchy.

It is very generally believed that if the monarchy disappeared the Commonwealth would crumble. The present formula meets every contingency. As Winston Churchill put it at the coronation luncheon of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association:

"We have found out a very good plan". The Sovereign is the monarch or the head, or both, of the Nations of the Commonwealth.

At the coronation the Queen received loud and sincere acclaim. It was not limited to the tumultuous applause of the millions on the coronation procession route but extended across the seas throughout the world. That acclaim was not purely personal no matter how charming and gracious the Queen is and here overstatement is impossible. The occasion provided an opportunity to the whole free world to pay tribute to one who is the Head of the Commonwealth of Nations. And in so doing they paid tribute, as well, to one who so fittingly symbolizes the genius of the people of Britain, who, in the centuries, have taken the lead in the moulding of an international association which provides a living pattern of cooperation and goodwill for those who are called upon to solve problems on the global level.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was given world acclaim at the coronation because she is a beautiful woman, because she is a wife and mother, because she is a queenly Queen, and because she is the Head of a group of nations "freely cooperating in the pursuit of peace, liberty and progress."

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

3) The Oath is as follows:

"Will you solemnly promise and swear to govern the peoples of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, Pakistan and Ceylon, and of your Possessions and other Territories to any of them belonging or pertaining, according to their respective laws and customs?"

"I solemnly promise so to do,"

## An Experiment in Education

(Continued from Page 16)

been confirmed in the Lutheran Church of the community and the Pastor ,Rev. H. Thorgrimsson, suggested that a boy possessing such a keen mind should go to an institution of higher learning where his unusual talents might be developed. During the previous summers Laugi had been working at various jobs open to the boys in the district. He had been herding sheep and cattle for the neighboring farmers, threshing, cutting cord wood ,and running a grain binder. Fur trapping and bounties on coyotes augmented somewhat his slender financial resources. That fall he started out for Luther College, Decorah, Iowa.

"I can well remember the day he left", writes his sister Loa, from Cavalier, "John (his older brother) drove him to Hamilton on our old yellow pony. Mother and I went with them as far as the school house to bid him good bye. Before we turned back towards home we went into the little school and sat down for a while for mother could no longer keep back the tears."

Since that day G. B. Gunlogson has travelled far along the road of education, research, invention, lecturing, writing, and contemplation. Perhaps the richest element in the fabric of his life has been the contemplation, the independent thinking of a gifted person who believes strongly in the **responsibility of the individual** to shape his own career for the betterment of the community and the nation.

The road led him to the "big cities", to possible wealth, luxury and fame, all of which he has attained in some measure. But tugging at his heart

strings were the simpler joys of nature, the lure of the land, rich, lush and unspoiled by the inroads of ultra-mechanized civilization. This mental debate has never been won or lost. Even now Gunlogson says nostalgically: "I would be happy to detach myself completely from business and social affairs and devote myself to a small place with, a few cows. . . ."

In another letter Gunlogson says: "We are becoming slaves of our possessions. In North Dakota (pioneer days) we were not so encumbered with worldly goods, maybe that is why we felt so much freer."

A very modest man, Mr. Gunlogson will say very little about himself or his own career. But he is eloquent in his tribute to the pioneers.

"It was my good fortune", he says, "to have been born in a community rich in human values and to have known in my youth, a number of those fine people who came to the near wilderness, along the Tongue River to stake out claims and to make their way in a new country and a new world. There they built their homes, raised families, cleared the brushland, broke the prairie soil, built churches, schools and a fine community. My parents were of these people and no one ever had better parents. Since I left there fifty years ago, if I have met any success, it is because I have tried to pursue the ideals and inspirations I carried with me from those early years."

Mr. Gunlogson has been most generous in his contributions to worthy community causes, social and cultural.

He has given freely to churches, old people's homes, hospitals, and educational institutions. His mind has been, particularly of late, much concerned with doing more and more for his childhood community, by way of conservation and beautification. About a year ago he wrote to his friend, J. J. Erlendon, of Cavalier, concerning a project which he had in mind for beautifying the "Old Sandridge Church and Cemetery". He would like to acquire a strip of land there bordering on the cemetery, for tree planting "to add to the permanency, peace and beauty of the cemetery and church grounds".

In his letter he says: "Now that I am contemplating a trip up there I can sense more deeply that we can no longer bring gifts to our loved ones who are buried there, but we can still express our reverence to their memory and for their eternal resting place."

Owing to his keen interest and pre-occupation with "living nature", and the fascination held for him by "wilderness places", he has never wholly immersed himself in the scientific and industrial sphere, although his contributions in that field have been somewhat spectacular. "All my life I have continued to live in these two worlds, (the world of industry and the world of nature)" he says, "I have been a 'jack of all trades and master of none'". Thus with dry good humour he dismisses a career that has been illustrious and of inestimable value to his country.

#### IV

Mr. Gunlogson is a farmer, an engineer and a business executive. He is a member of the Citizen's Natural Resources Association of Wisconsin and of many other scientific and conserva-

tion organizations including: American Society of Agricultural Engineers; American Association for the Advancement of Science; Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters; American Forestry Association; National Audubon Society; Nature Conservancy; Society of Automotive Engineers; Royal Agricultural Society of England; The Wilderness Society; Izaak Walton League; Soil Conservation Society of America; and many others.

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Western Advertising Agency in 1947, a luncheon was held in honor of Mr. Gunlogson in New York, by prominent editors. Mr. Gunlogson became the principal owner and manager of the Agency in 1930 and the Chicago office was established that same year. At that time tribute was paid to Mr. Gunlogson for the outstanding services rendered by his Agency, particularly for the "continuous and expanding devotion to product and market research". The papers covering the luncheon remarked that "Gunlogson was a pioneer in the application of scientific sampling and attitude research methods to advertising. Many years ago, he conducted extensive product and market studies which received acclaim in technical journals and helped popularize techniques which are employed today in mass evaluation of products and public opinion.

"Year in and year out the Agency conducts many surveys by mail questionnaire and personal interviews. In some of these projects it is not unusual to contact thousands of persons."

In a foreword to Gunlogson's published paper on "Too Much Government in Basic Conservation", Albert M. Fuller, President of Citizen's Natur-

al Resources Ass'n., of Wisconsin, quotes this paragraph from the paper:

"It is a dangerous notion that the Federal Government must be called on to exercise judgement and control over projects if they concern the public. There is a danger in this for the future of conservation. Let us not forget that most of the progress in this country has not come from the genius or with the aid of government, but from the genius and effort of free individuals."

This paper was published in the Congressional record and widely dis-

tributed in the United States. It caused much discussion in governmental and educational circles. Thus we may hope that the philosophy of which Mr. Gunlogson is the living exponent may be having considerable influence in reviving "the ideals and inspirations" which the children of the early pioneers in various parts of the country, imbibed in their humble homes. The emulation of these virtues of "heart and mind", along with all the technical aids which modern progress has given us, will help to build a better world!

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## The Icelandic Canadian Club

The annual meeting of the Icelandic Canadian Club, held in the First Federated Church on May 25th, marked the close of an active and successful year for the club. A brief report should be made of the four main events of the year.

The annual banquet and dance was held at the Marlborough Hotel. Over 200 sat down at the banquet table and an unknown number came in later for the dance. A report on this event appeared in the last issue of the magazine.

The annual concert, held on Feb. 24th, in conjunction with the meeting of the Icelandic National League, proved to be unusually successful. Many very complimentary remarks were heard both that evening and afterwards. The program consisted of: address by Rev. Harald S. Sigmar, Pastor at Gimli; piano solo, Miss Irene Guttormson; Vocal solos by Mrs. Pearl Johnson and Rudolf Balloff; greetings from the Leif Eirikson Club, Erling Eggertson; violin

solo, Palmi Palmason; and vocal duet by Mr. and Mrs. Max Kaplick.

The Club sponsored the showing of a film from Iceland, March 13th, in the Icelandic Federated Church. The film was shown by Mr. Njall Thoroddsson of Iceland. The Church was packed and many found it impossible to get inside. Judge W. Lindal presided and Mr. Thoroddsson was introduced by Mrs. H. F. Danielson.

The special New Members meeting was held in the Federated Church March 30th. The program follows:

Mr. Ed Olson, the First President of the I.C.C., the guest speaker, gave a review on the background, origin, and growth of the Club; vocal selection by Miss Evelyn Thorvaldson; Mr. W. Kristjánsson welcomed the new members; Dr. L. A. Sigurdson, the first Vice-President read out the names of the new members that have joined since last Christmas, 63 in number; violin selection by Mr. Palmi Palmason, accompanied by Mr. Charlie Johnson; Rev. V. J. Eylands, President of



the Icelandic National League; Mr. Jon Asgeirson the President of the Frón, and Dr. Gestur Kristjanson, President of the Leif Eiriksson Club, each gave a short talk.

### President's Report

The following is the president's report to the annual meeting.

"My report will be brief. It will to a large extent be a repetition of what I have said from time to time during the current year.

For some years there has been a growing conviction among the Icelandic ethnic group that if they are going to be able to maintain their organization they must be able to reach the young people. This applies not only to the Icelandic Club but also, and perhaps more so, to the Icelandic National League and its Chapters, such as Frón.

One of the most gratifying experiences in my life was the response from the young people when they were asked to gather together and express their thoughts on the question of being in some way associated with each other and with their elders and in that way prevent the disintegration of our distinctively national culture and help preserve what they deemed of value in their heritage of language and literature.

The story of the organization of the Leif Eiriksson Club need not be told here. The fact that the members of the Club decided to form an independent organization but in close cooperation with others having similar objects has proved to be a gain rather than a disadvantage as it helped pave the way for the second step that was taken during the current year.

At the annual meeting of the Icelandic National League a resolution

on cooperation was moved by your president and seconded by the president of the Leif Eiriksson Club and unanimously carried. It was reported verbatim in the last issue of the Magazine. If this avowed cooperation is to succeed it is necessary to have what may be regarded as a standing committee representing the three organizations. I am unofficially informed that the Executive Committee of the Icelandic National League have named a committee of three for this purpose. My suggestion is that the committee from the Icelandic Canadian Club consist of the President, the vice-President, and the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

When the young people decided to form an organization of their own some members feared that this would be a very severe blow to our club. That danger was seen from the beginning but it was felt that the risk had to be taken. This was a problem your Executive Committee decided to face immediately after the midwinter dance and the concert held in conjunction with the annual conference of the League. Arrangement was made to hold a special New Members meeting, and the Membership Committee was augmented in order to carry out a campaign for new members. That did not prove difficult. The Leif Eiriksson Club had the very opposite effect to what some had anticipated. Now people could see something in the nature of permanency to our Organization. The influx of young people has much more than offset the toll of the grim reaper.

At the New Member's Meeting the names of 63 new members were read. This included new members from the beginning of the present calendar year.

The total paid up membership is now 126. If to that we add those who have stated that they are joining and who have not yet been billed for the simple reason that your treasurer has not had the time to do it, the total membership is about 144.

The attendance at the banquet and dinner in the Marlborough Hotel set a new record and judging by reports the Annual Concert was the best the Icelandic Canadian Club has staged.

### What about the future?

The next important task is to develop a programme of activities so that all our members can participate if they so desire. The responsibility, and it is greater than that of the president, falls upon the shoulders of the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and it will be my pleasure later to call upon him for a progress report.

The Icelandic Canadian Club has ample grounds for feeling optimistic."

W. J. Lindal



The report of the Treasurer, H. V. Larusson, showed receipts of \$1402.00 and disbursements of \$913.22 leaving a balance for the year of \$488.79.

The Business and Circulation Mgr. of the magazine, H. F. Danielson, showed receipts of \$4237.44 and disbursements of \$3683.44, leaving a net surplus for the year of \$554.00.

The Advertising Solicitor, Mr. Barney Finnson, who is now a member of the Club, was given a hearty vote of thanks for his enthusiastic and successful work.

A report from the Convenor of the Social Committee, Mrs. O. Jonasson, showed a net balance on hand of \$1.83.

On the motion of A. Vopnfjord, seconded by H. J. H. Palmasson, a hearty vote of thanks was expressed to the Executive and all Committees for their splendid work during the year. The election of officers will be announced in the Autumn issue.

The following is the slate of officers for the coming year:

Hon. President, Prof. Skuli Johnson; President, Judge W. J. Lindal; Vice-President, Mr. J. T. Beck; Secretary, Mrs. Ingibjorg Cross; Recording Sec., Miss Steinunn Bjarnason; Treasurer, Mr. H. J. Stefansson.

### Executive Committee:

Mr. H. V. Larusson; Mrs. G. F. Jonasson; Mrs. Pauline Newcombe; Mr. G. Finnbogason; Mr. W. Johnson.

### Ways and Means Committee:

Mr. H. V. Larusson; Mrs. Lara B. Sigurdson; Miss Naomi Samson; and the president and the secretary.

**Social Committee:** Mrs. A. Vopnfjord, convener; **Publicity:** Mr. Wilhelm Kristjansson; **Scholarship Committee:** Mr. Paul Bardal; Convener; **Membership Committee:** Mr. Helgi Olsen, Convener; **Committee on Cooperation** The President; Vice-President and the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

**Auditor:** Mr. H. J. H. Palmason

Personnel of Magazine Committee will be reported in the September issue.

On the motion of A. Vopnfjord, seconded by H. J. H. Palmsaon, a hearty vote of thanks was expressed to the retiring officers and members of the committees.

Ingibjorg Cross (Mrs.)

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**BABY LINKER LOGS  
40,000 MILES**

When eighteen month-old David Linker was in Detroit in April, with his pretty blonde Icelandic mother and his father Hal Linker, who is a maker of travel movies, he had girded the world with his parents and logged some 40,000 miles.

David was born in Reykjavík, Iceland where Hal Linker met and married the blond young native girl, Halla Guðmundsdóttir. Since then the three have made the free world their home, while Mr. Linker takes films of various countries and also shows his travel films. Their next stop will be South America.

In Detroit Mr. Linker showed his movies on "Surprising Iceland", on the World Adventure series at the Detroit Institute of Arts. He also showed a movie of rural England and Wales.

Mr. Linker has travelled widely in the United States showing his interesting travel movies of many countries, best particularly those on Iceland. He gives an interesting and enthusiastic commentary on the pictures of Iceland and has shown in many ways that he is a great admirer of the country and the people. In his travels Mr. Linker has secured and sent to Iceland quite a variety of fruit tree seed-

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lings and other plants that he considers might be raised in the hot houses of Iceland, which are heated by the natural hot springs.



### 47,000 QUIT FARM FOR CITY SINCE 1931

The pleasures of city life have lured some 47,000 rural people from the milk house and the plow since 1931. These workers are now swelling the production of factories and offices in Manitoba's cities.

But the use of machinery has enabled the short-handed farmer to keep up his production and even increase it. Today he handles more acres than ever.

There are a thousand less farms in Manitoba today than in 1921. There are nearly 7,000 fewer farms than in 1941. But the number of acres of field crops goes steadily higher.

The entire population of Manitoba took a temporary slide in 1946, the first time this had happened in the history of the province. But the 1951 census shows the population to be steadily increasing once more.

From an economic viewpoint, the population shift means Manitoba is expanding industrially, but without relaxing its agricultural production. Farmers are producing more per person, which is raising the standard of living in rural areas.

These are facts gleaned from a booklet "The Story of Manitoba's Agriculture", published by the department of agriculture. It gives a statistical record of the 70 years of Manitoba's history.

There are other features of the book.

Manitoba's biggest wheat crop was in 1951 when farmers planted 2,800,000 acres of wheat and harvested 24,000 bushels to the acre of a total of 69,330,000 bushels. The next highest was in 1940 when three and a half million acres were sown to wheat and produced 66,400,000 bushels or an average of 18.9 bushels per acre.



### SOME INTERESTING CHRONOLOGICAL FACTS

The first Olympic games, according to Dr. Johnson's dictionary, were held at Olympia, Greece, in 1453 B.C.



Money was first made of gold and silver at Argos in 894 B.C.



The first eclipse of the moon was recorded in 720 B.C.



A public library was established in Athens in 526 B.C.



Dionysus, of Alexandria, established the solar year at 365 days, five hours and 49 minutes, in 285 B.C.



Silk was brought from India in 270 B.C. It was manufactured by European monks in 551. It was first worn by clergy in England in 1534. Queen Elizabeth was the first person to wear silk stockings, in 1561.



Bells were invented by Bishop Paulinus, of Campagna, in 400 A.D.

A monk named Donysius began computing time according to the Christian era in 516.



Latin ceased to be spoken in Italy about 581.